MY BROTHER

MH97D3245

HISPANIC VIH SIDA PROGRAM

American Red Cross

My Brother

Starring:

José	George Perez
Teresa	Anne Betancourt
Carlos	Boris Chacon
Marisela	Ingrid Oliu
Martha	Jeannette Mirabal
Antonio	Jesse Sánchez
Dr. Magaña	Victor Mohica
Victor	Julian Micheals
Grandfather	Pete Leal
Grandmother	Arcelia Bravo
Father Jaime	Daniel Addes
Pedro	Tonyo Meléndez
Sonja	Raquel Rebollero
Francisco	David Acevedo
Claudia	Lucia Aguirre

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Revised April 1994 by Ledia I. Martínez, M.D. and Marylyn Leet, M.S.

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Also available through your local Red Cross chapter:
- Family Guide: *HIV/AIDS Prevention for the Family*
- Video: *Mi Hermano*
- Comic Book: *Risky Stuff*

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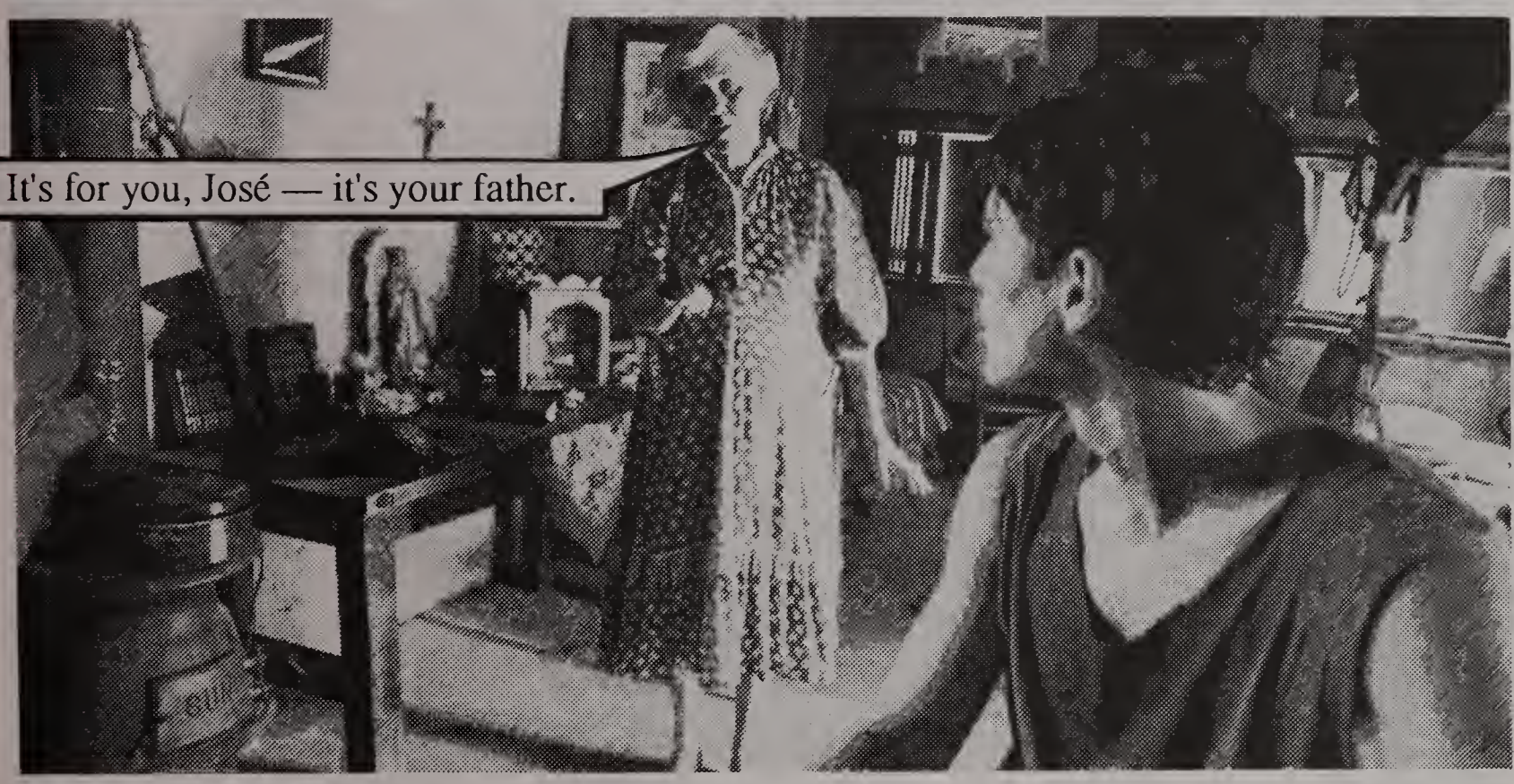
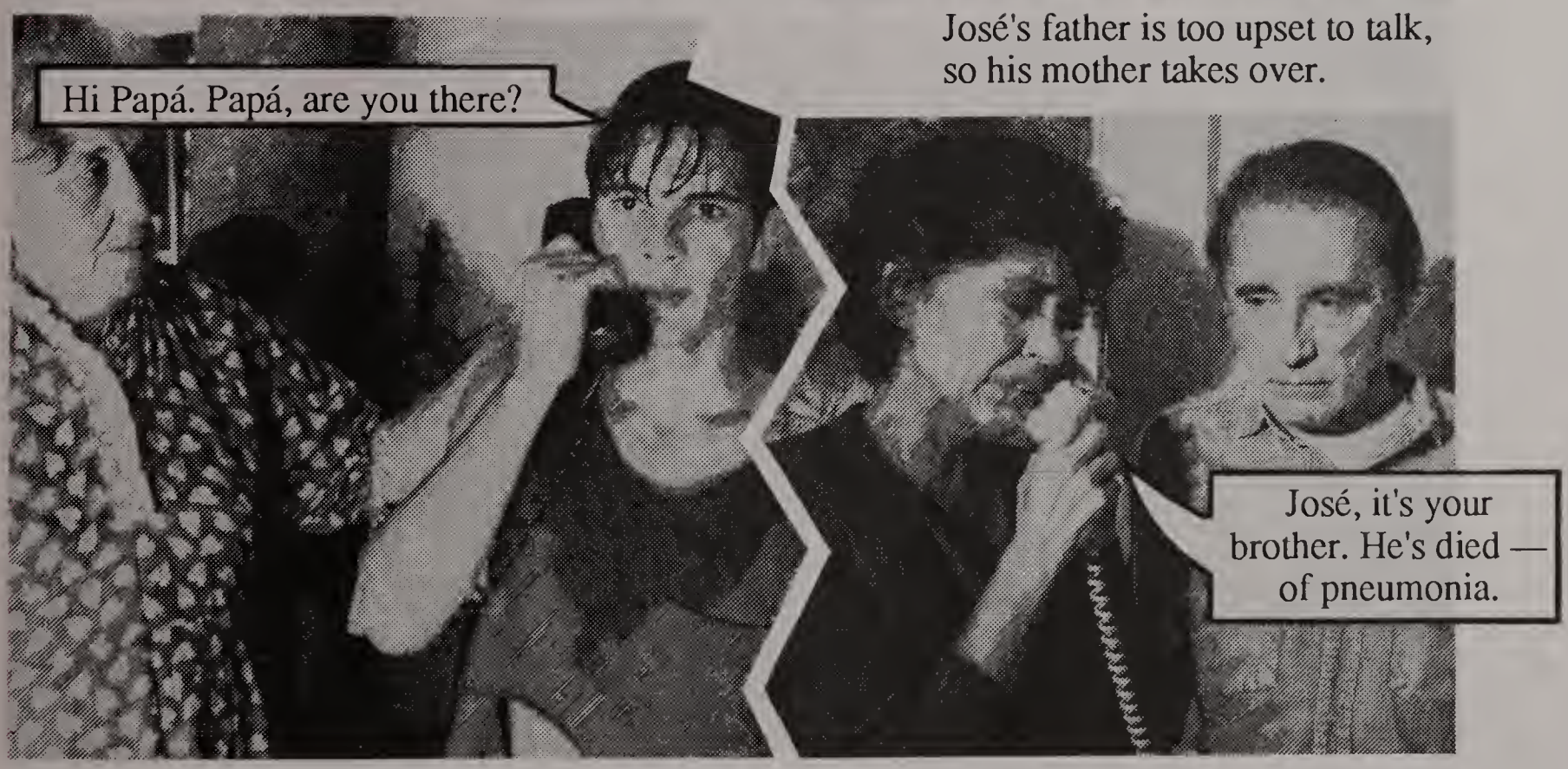
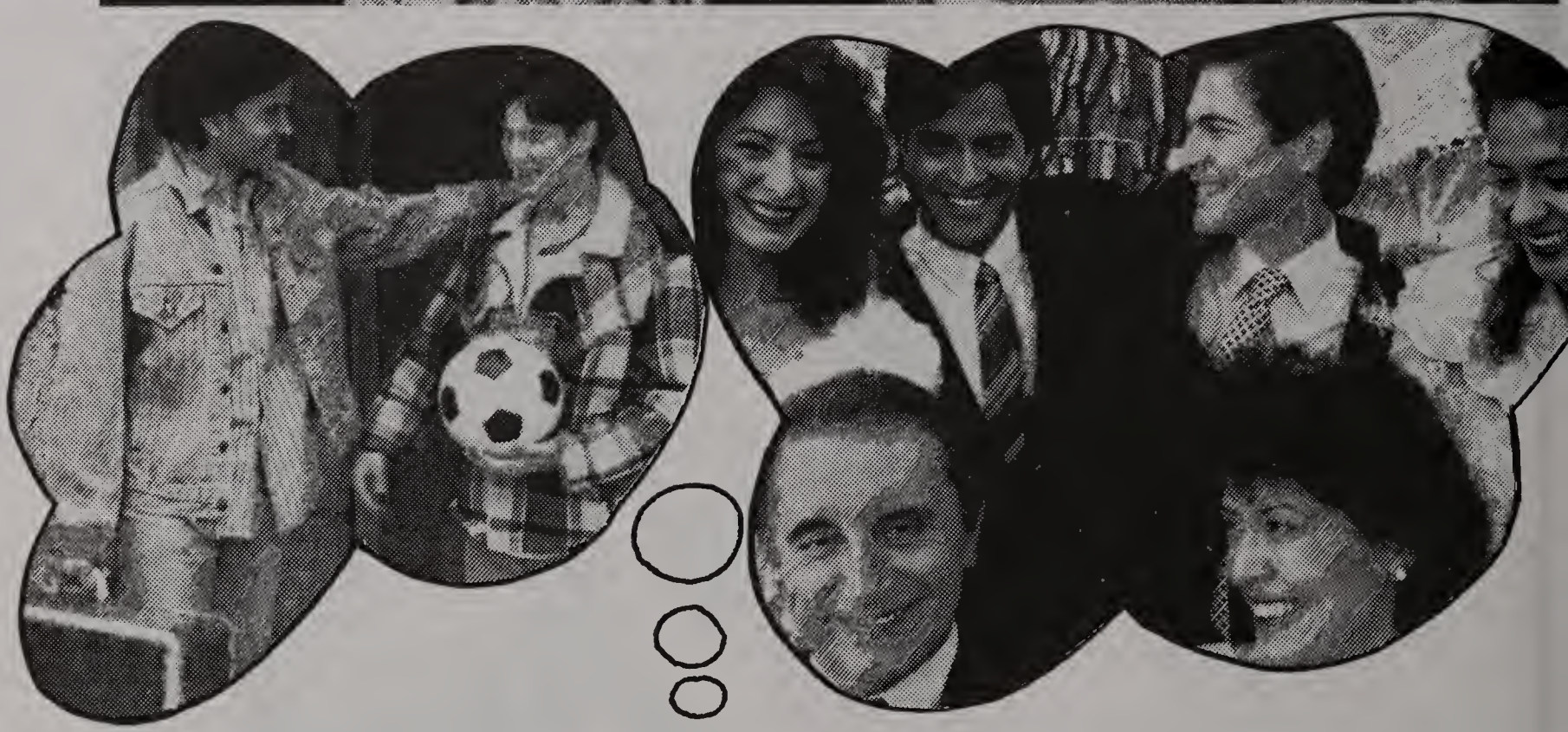
Our story begins in a small town, where José is spending the summer with his grandparents.

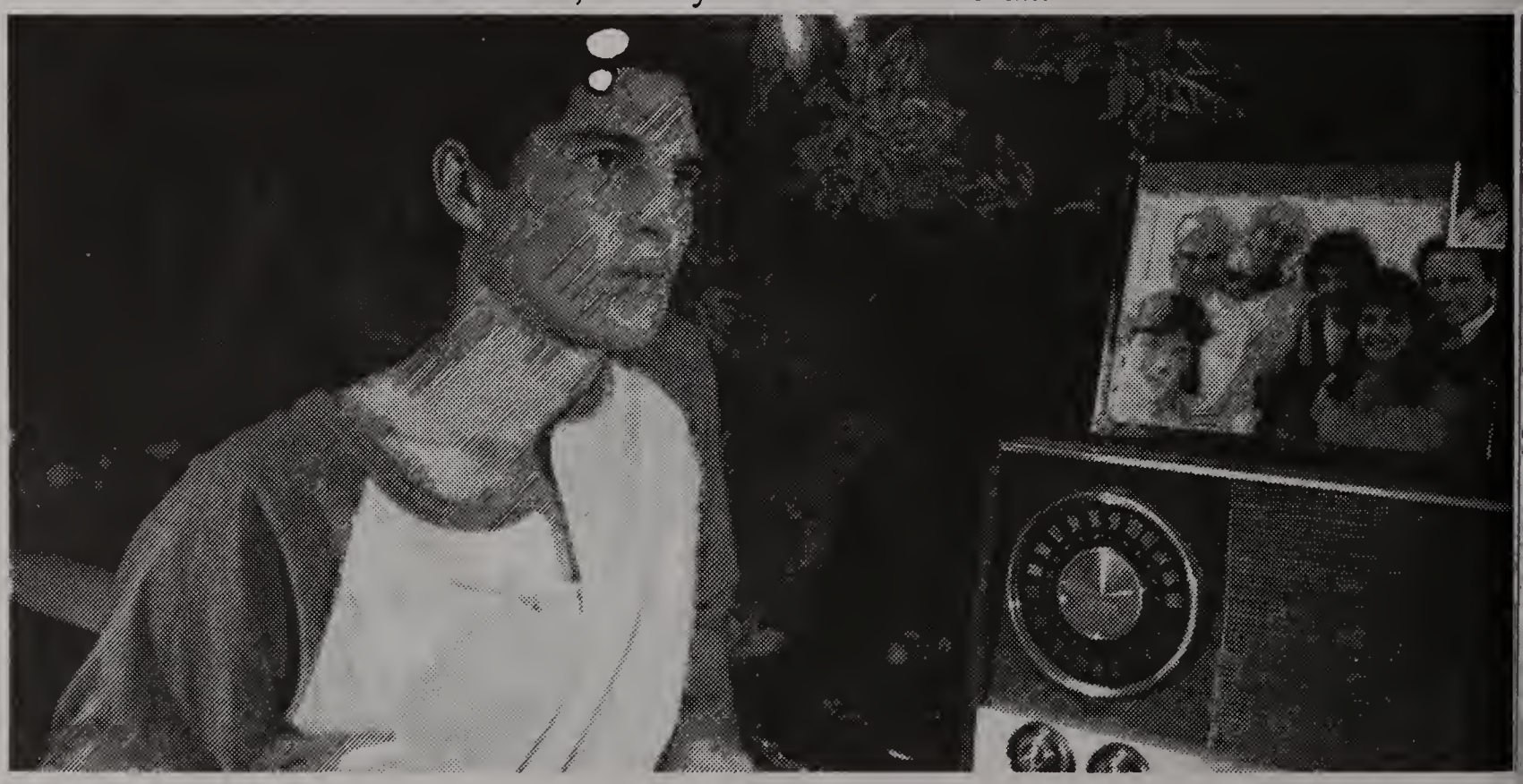


José's father is too upset to talk, so his mother takes over.

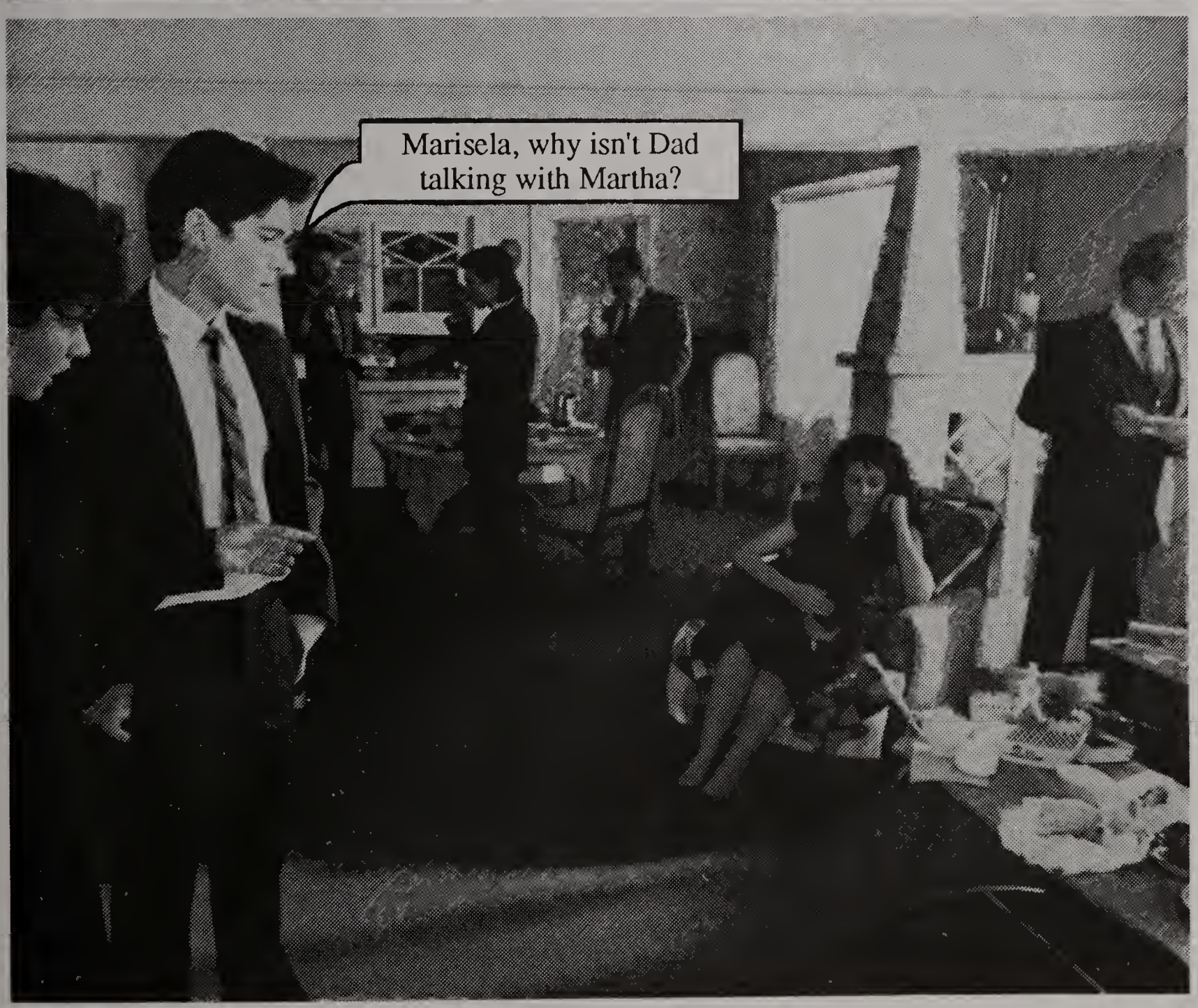


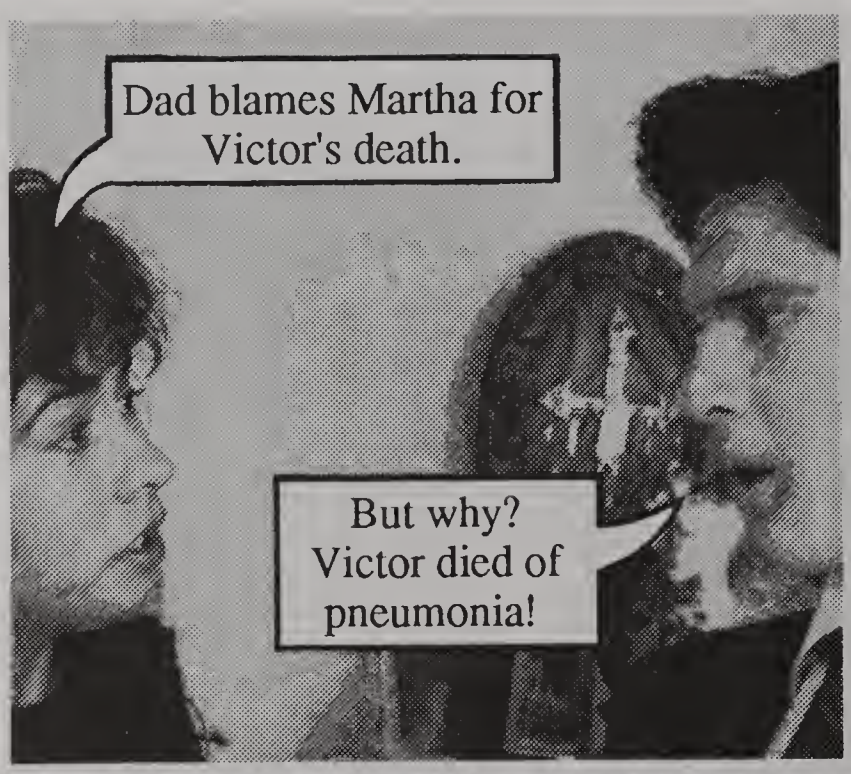


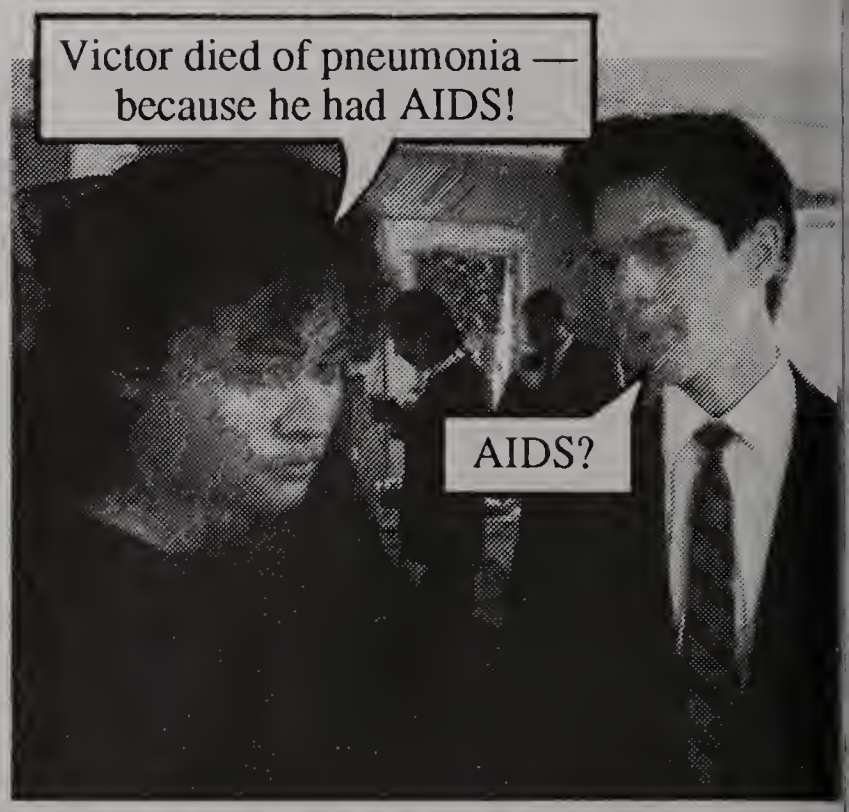
As he prepares to leave for his home in the city, José can't stop thinking about his older brother...the time he first left home, the day he married Martha...

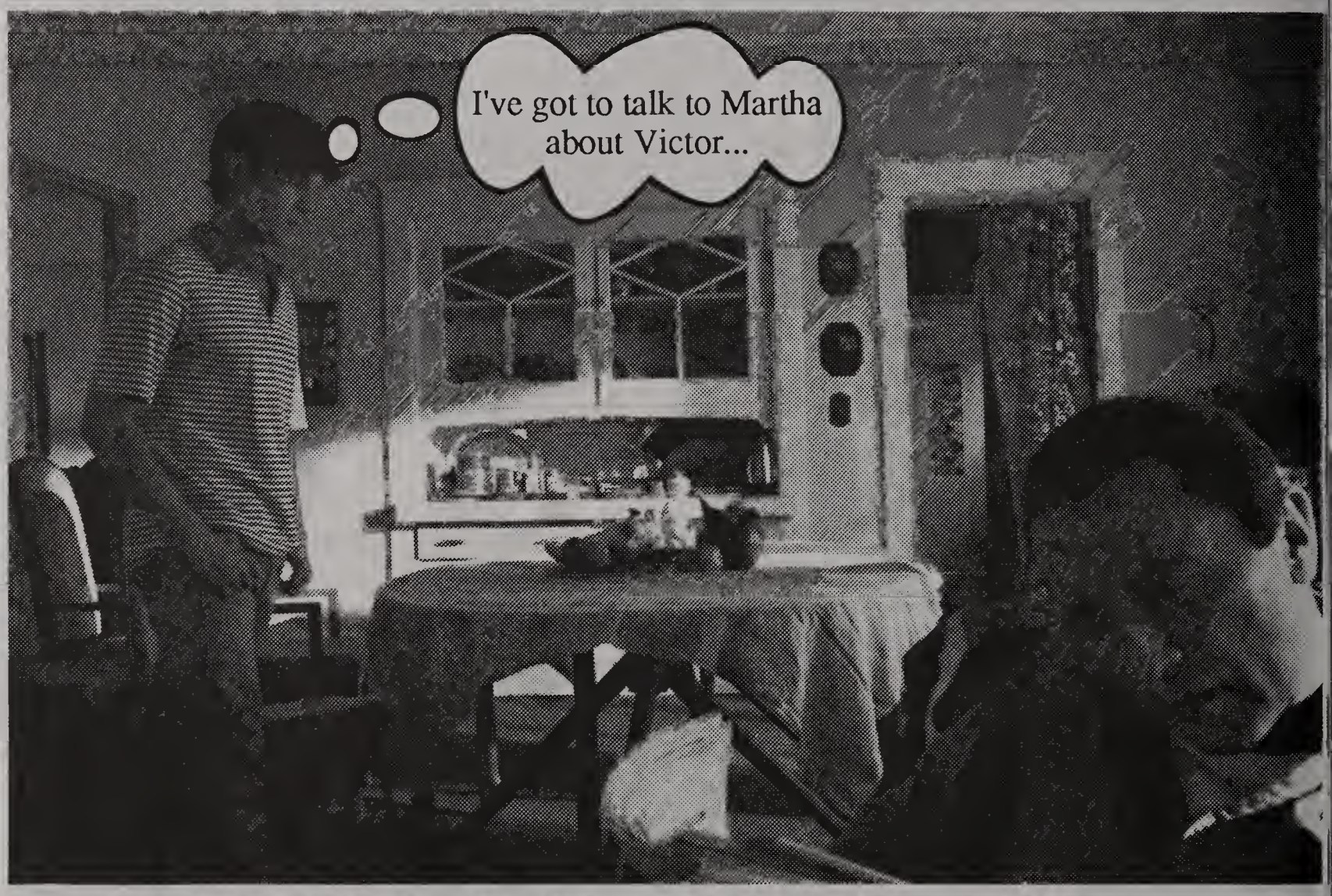


After some travel, José has returned home. There is a meal after the funeral.




Dad blames Martha for Victor's death.
But why? Victor died of pneumonia!


Victor died of pneumonia — because he had AIDS!
AIDS?


I've got to talk to Martha about Victor...

Martha, can I talk with you?

I was just looking at some wedding pictures.

Martha, is it true that Victor had...?

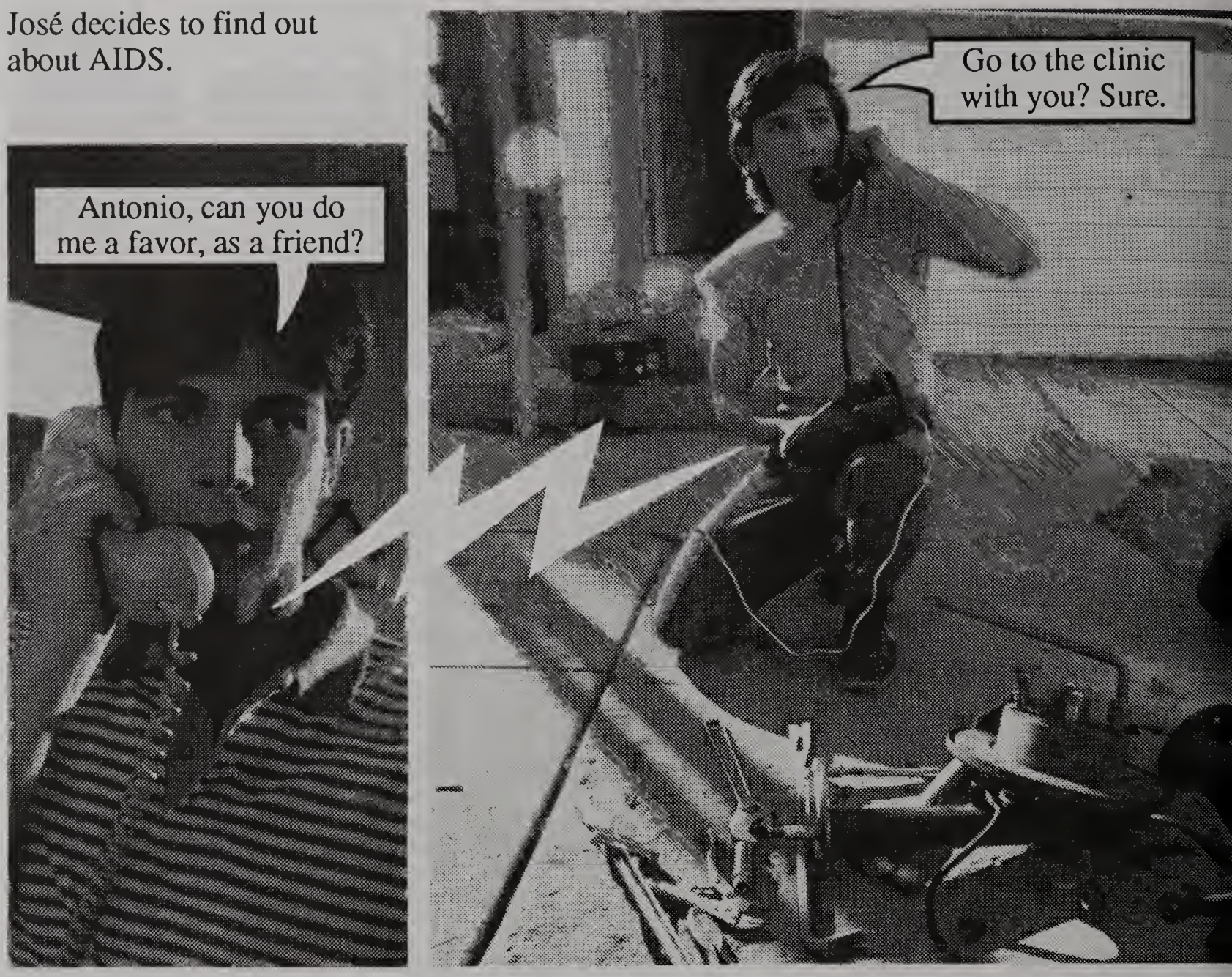
AIDS — yes. Dr. Magaña, your uncle, took care of him.

But how?

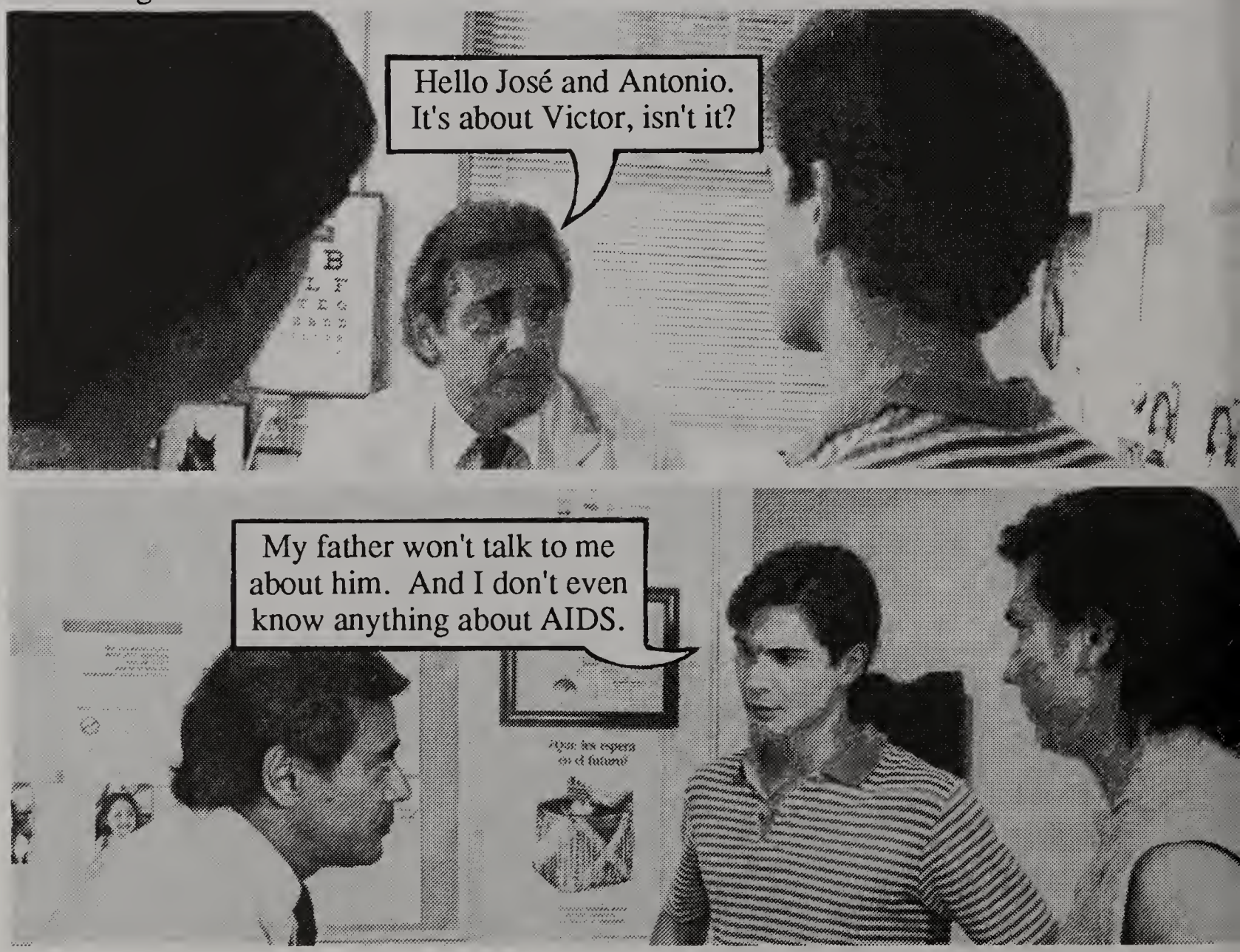
I don't know. When we found out, it was already too late. He had lost weight, he was having fevers, and finally he got pneumonia...

And now your father blames me, and he doesn't want to hear the truth. Please, José, go talk to him!

José decides to find out about AIDS.



In Dr. Magaña's clinic...


Hello José and Antonio. It's about Victor, isn't it?
My father won't talk to me about him. And I don't even know anything about AIDS.

I'm sorry he won't talk to you. Families need to talk about AIDS. Let me tell you about HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

3 ways you CAN get HIV:

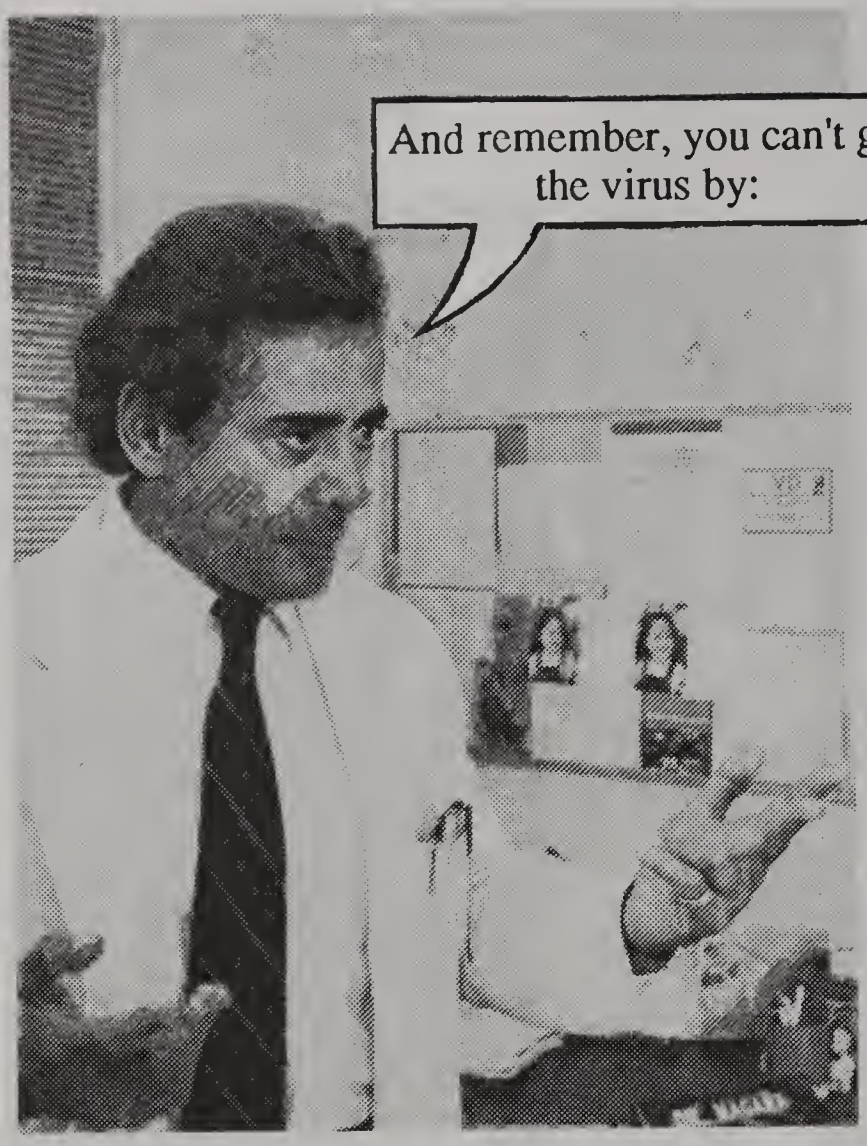
1. Having sex (without a latex condom) with men or women who are infected.

2. Sharing needles and syringes with an infected person.

3. A mother who is infected can pass the virus to her baby before or during birth, or in some cases, through breast milk.

And what about Victor? How did he get infected?

He never told me. It could have been a long time ago.



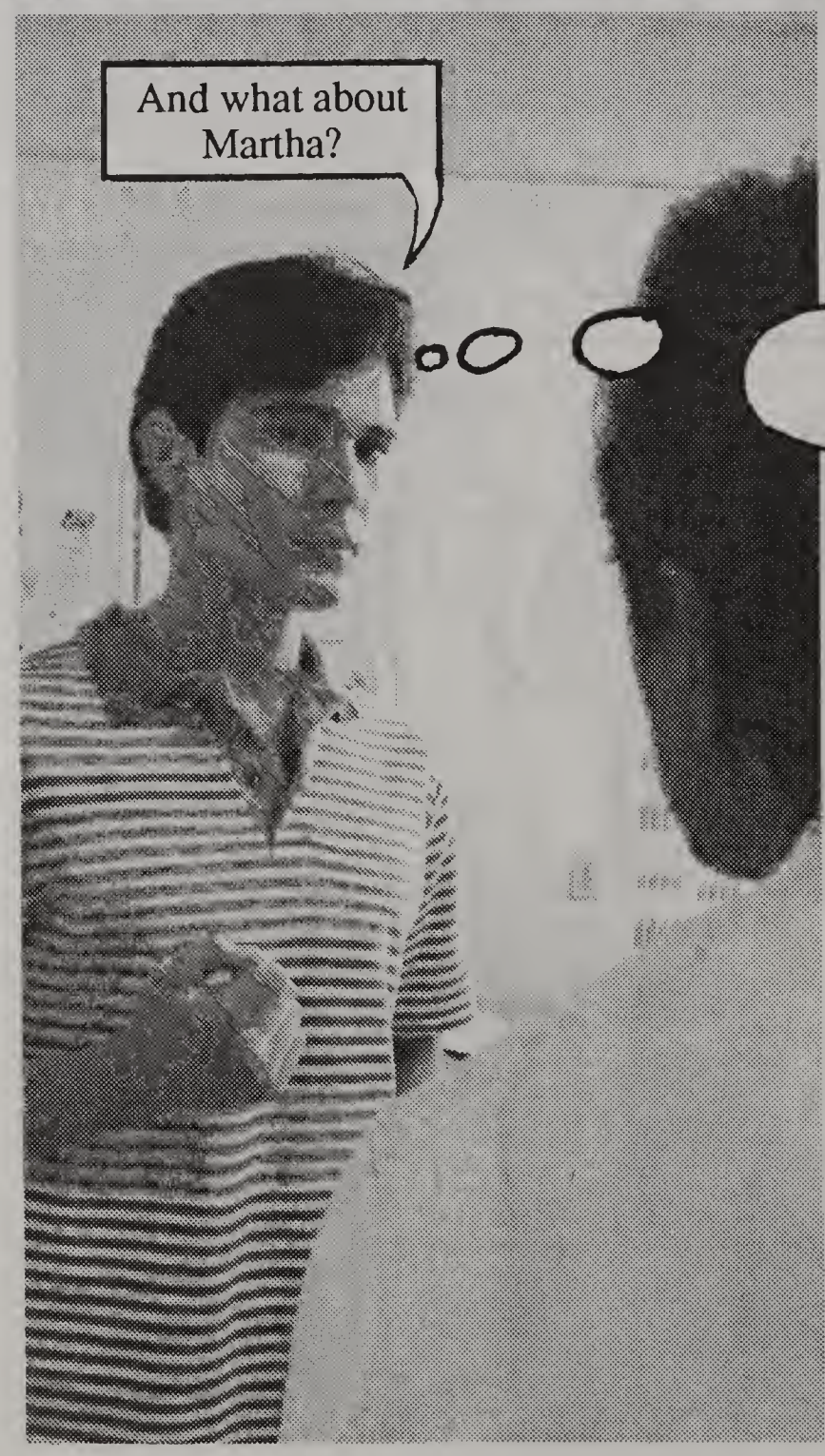
Some ways you CANNOT get HIV:

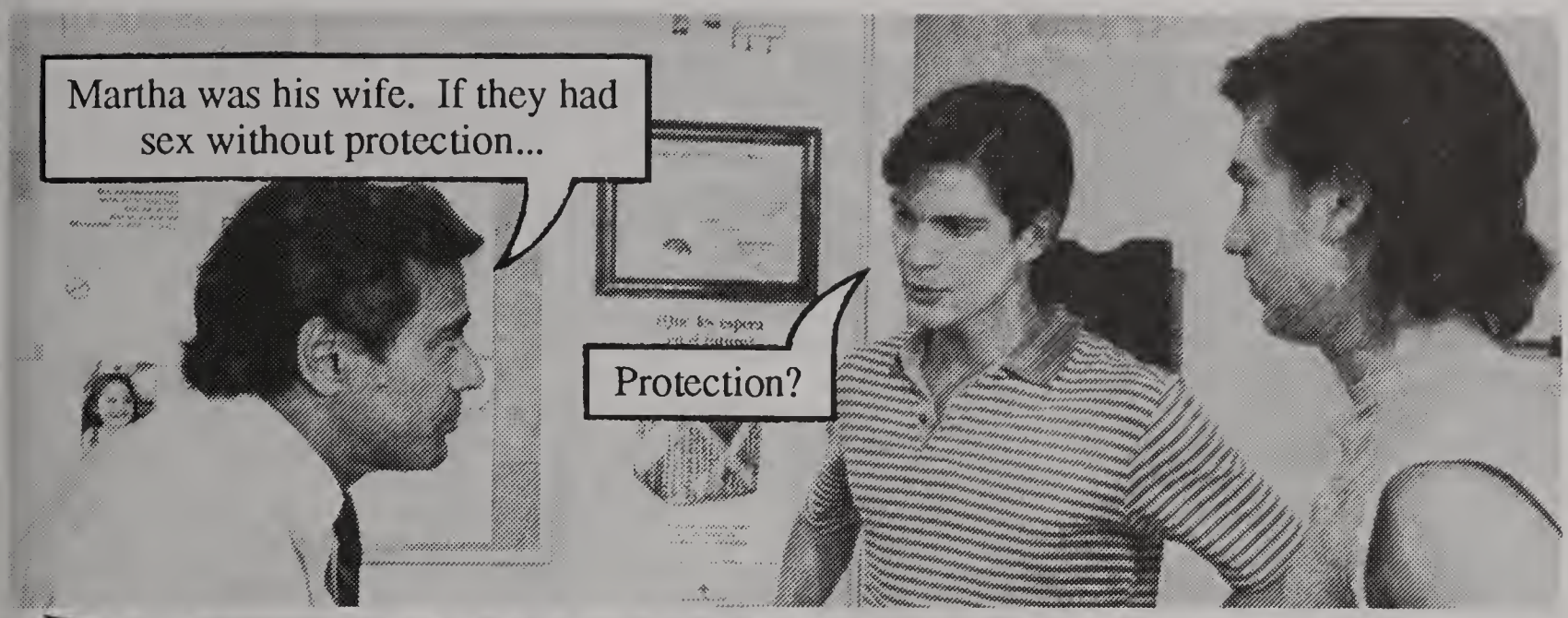
1. Hugging someone that is infected.

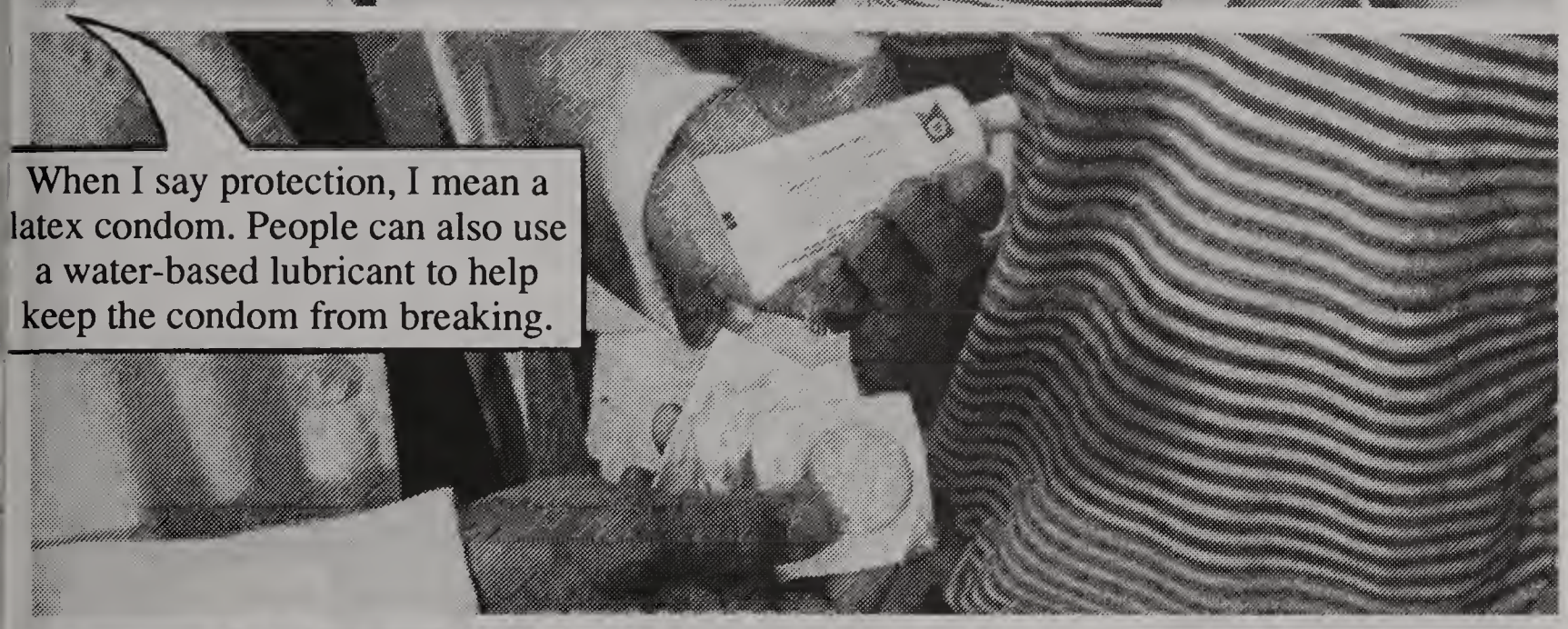
2. Coughing or sneezing from an infected person.

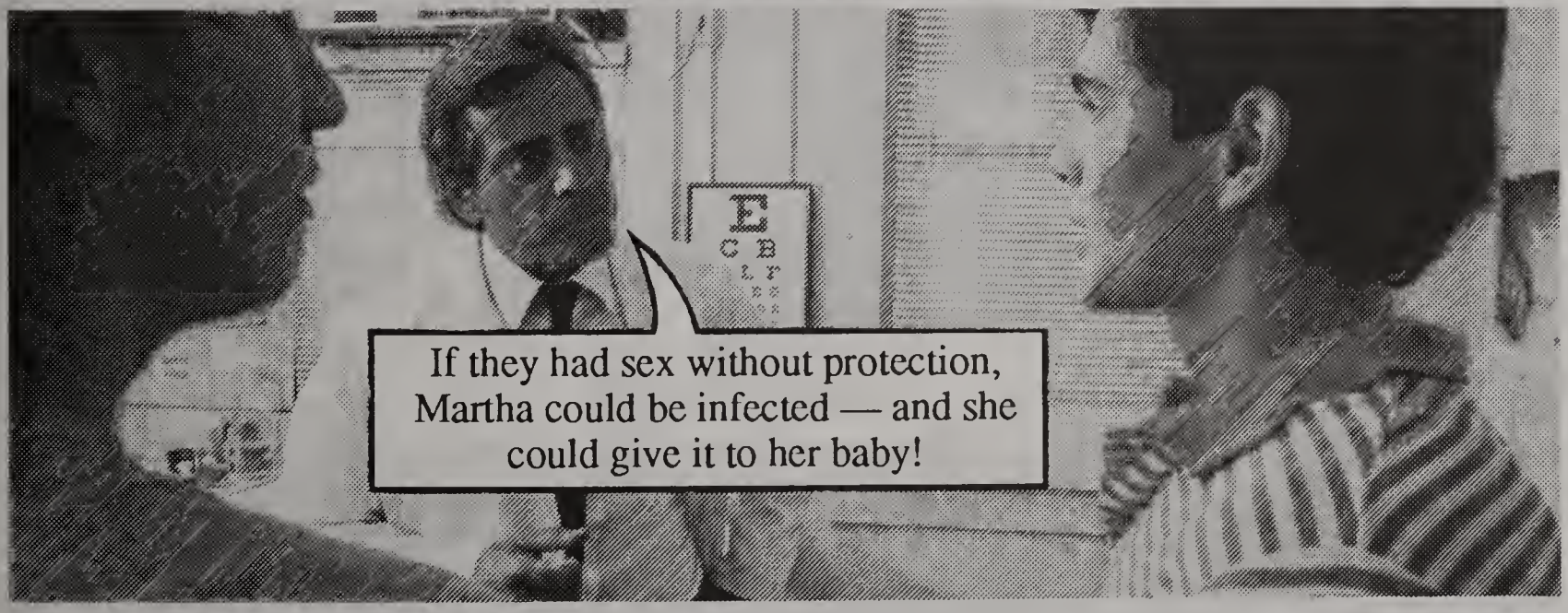
3. Sharing plates with an infected person.

4. Giving blood.






When I say protection, I mean a latex condom. People can also use a water-based lubricant to help keep the condom from breaking.



FACTS ABOUT HIV, THE VIRUS THAT CAUSES AIDS: REMEMBER:

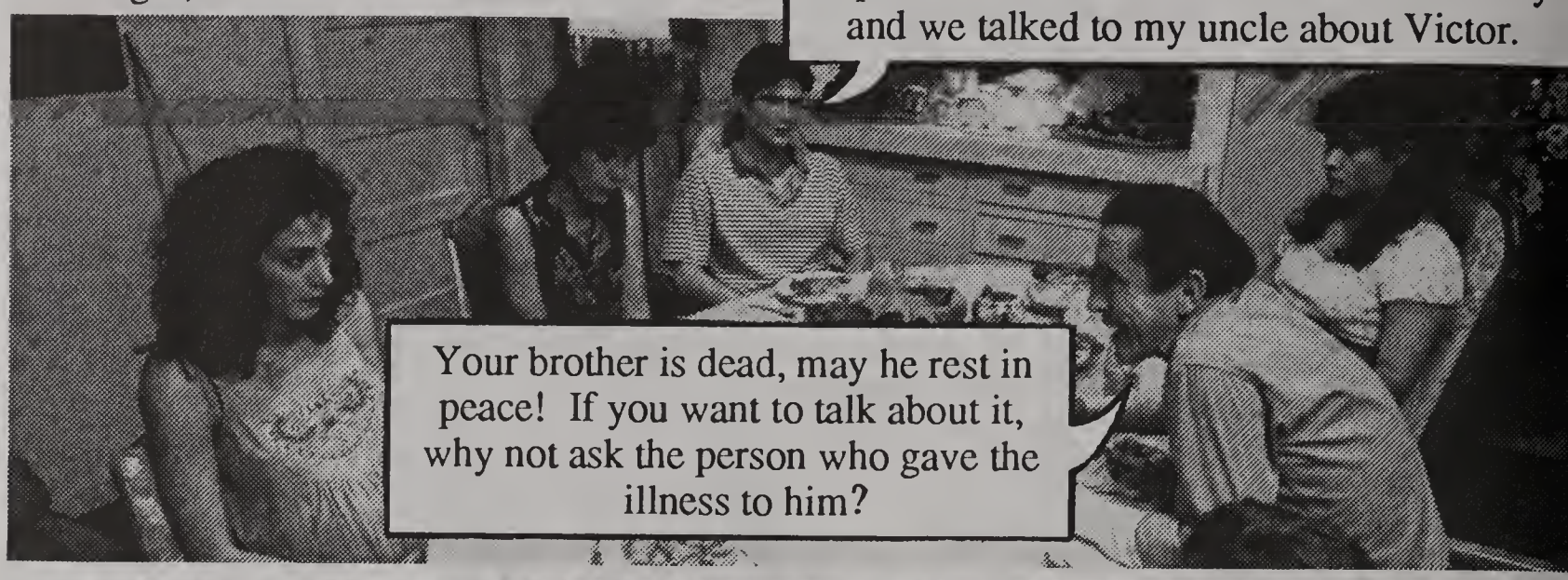
<u>You CAN'T get HIV by:</u>

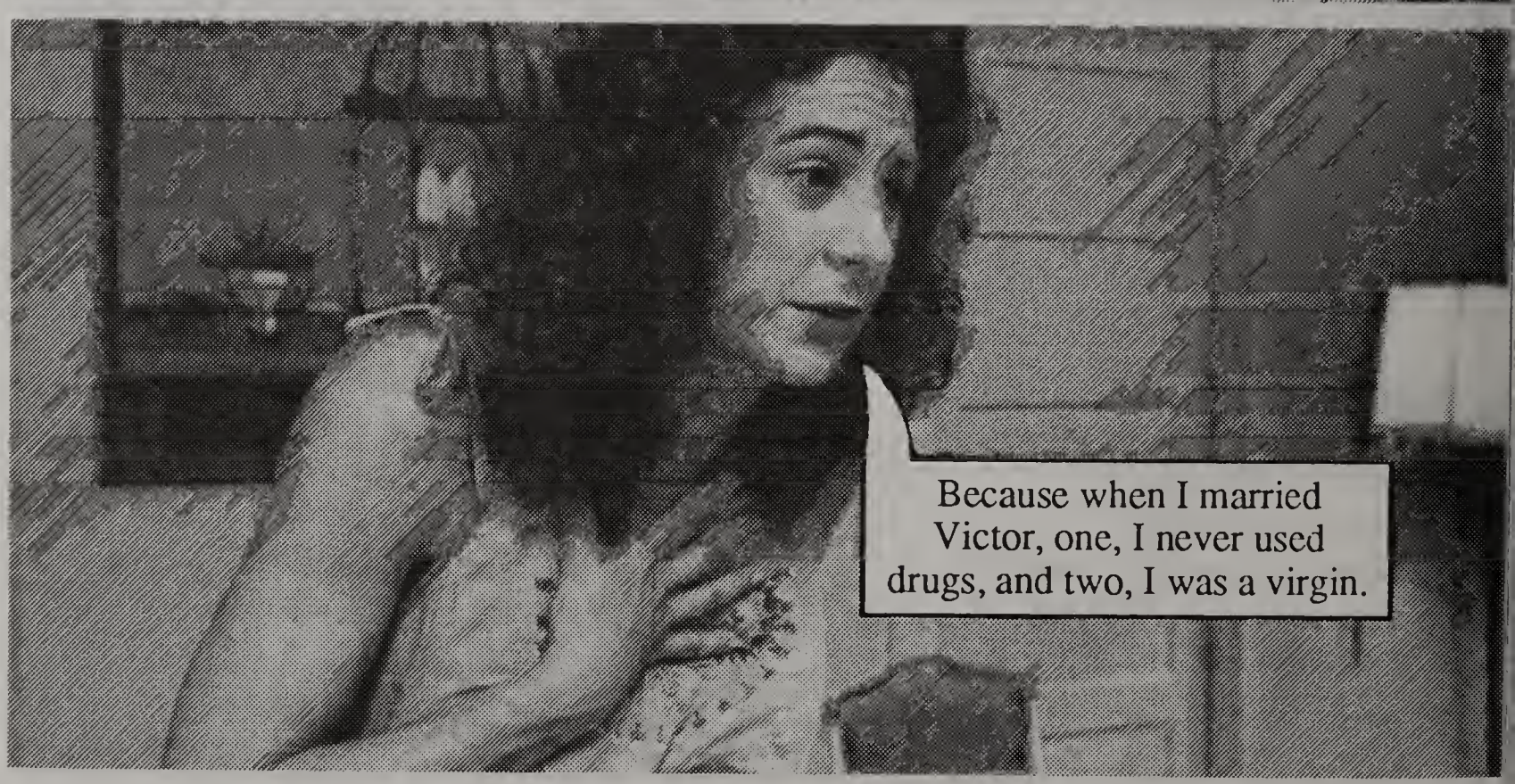
1. Kissing or hugging someone infected with HIV or who has AIDS.
2. Sharing a room with someone who is infected with HIV or who has AIDS.
3. Giving blood.

<u>You CAN get HIV by:</u>

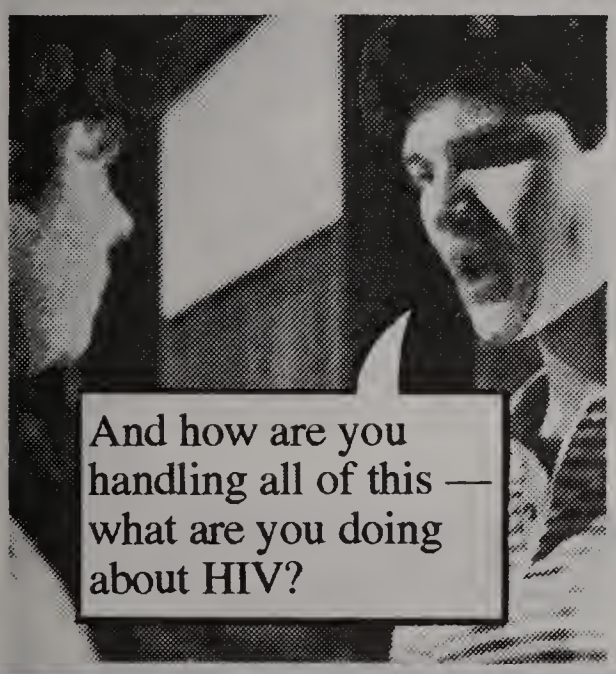
1. Having sex with an infected person (without a latex condom).
2. Sharing needles and syringes with an infected person.
3. A mother who is infected can pass the virus to her baby.

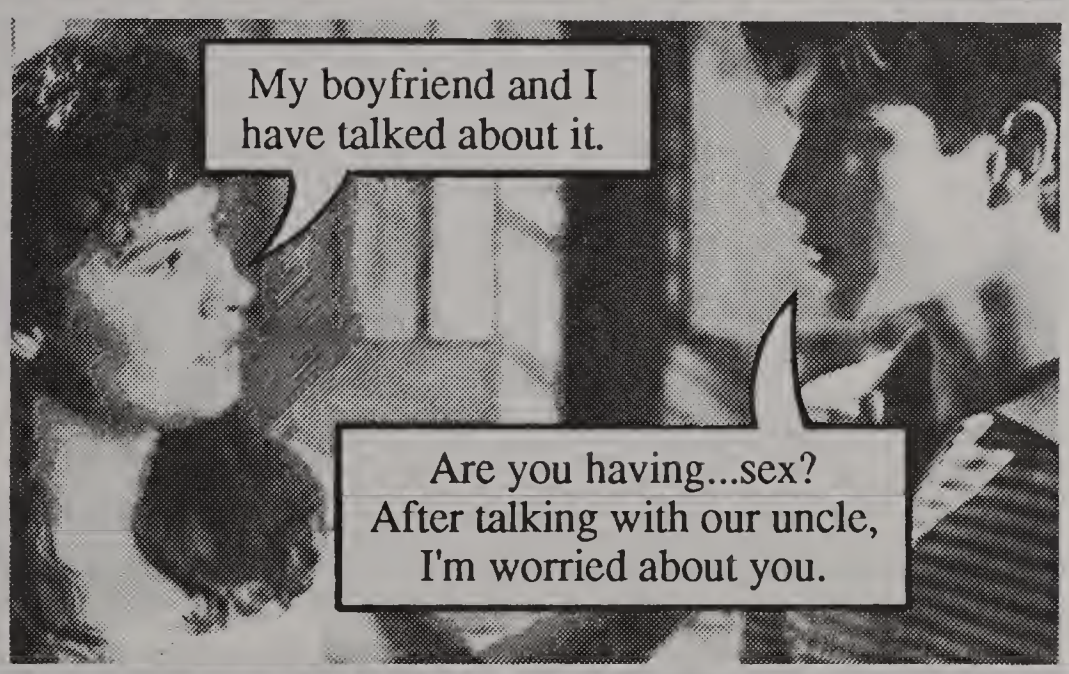
That night, José tries to talk to his father.

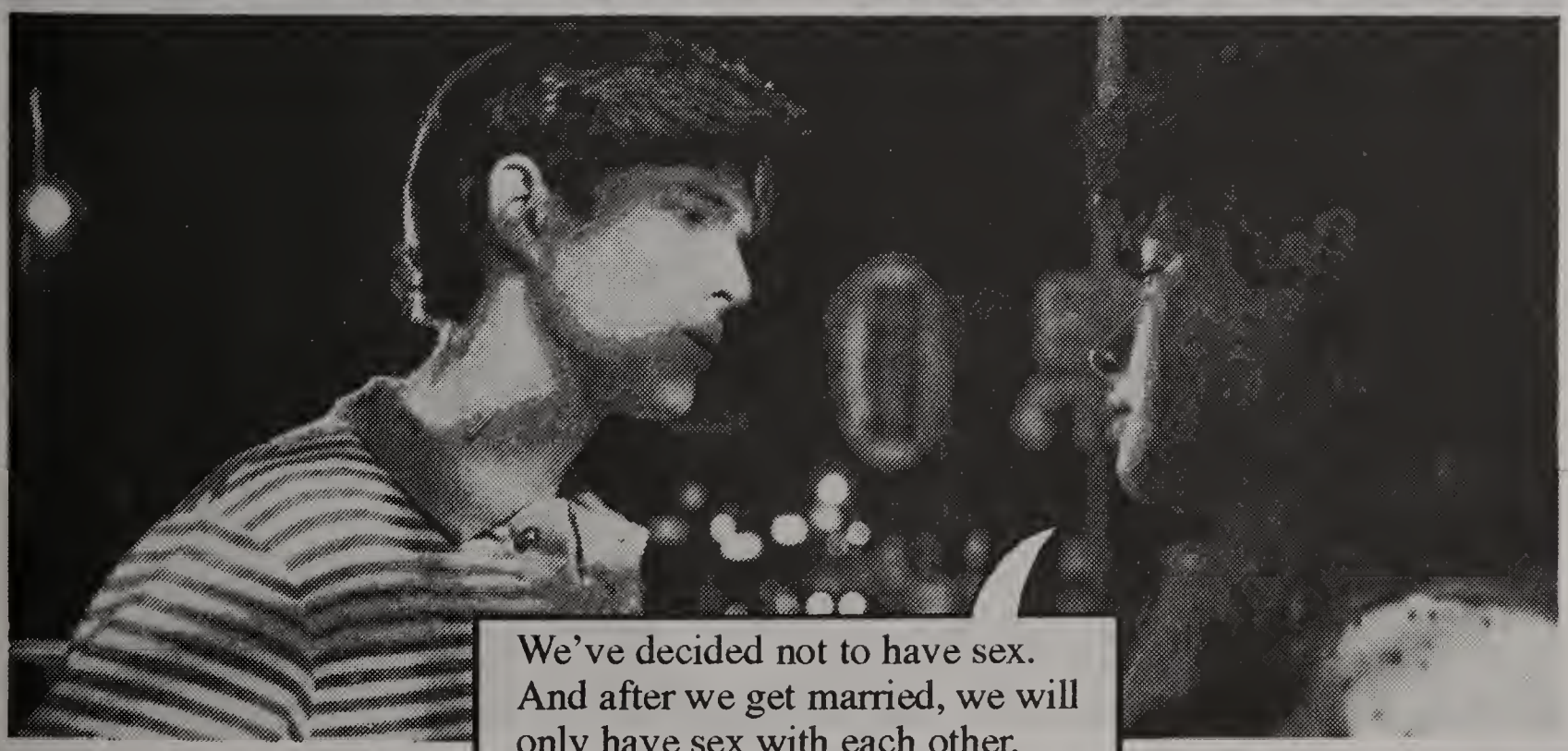

Papá, Antonio and I went to the clinic today and we talked to my uncle about Victor.
Your brother is dead, may he rest in peace! If you want to talk about it, why not ask the person who gave the illness to him?

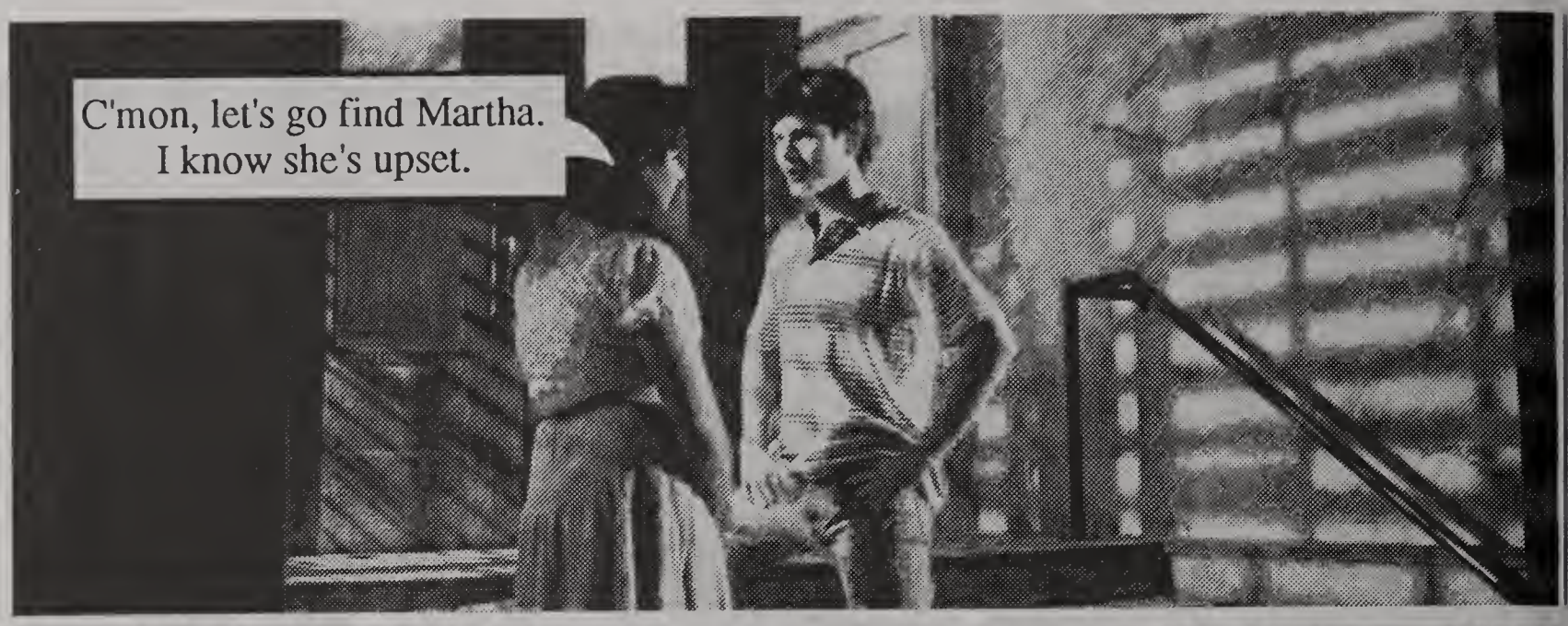


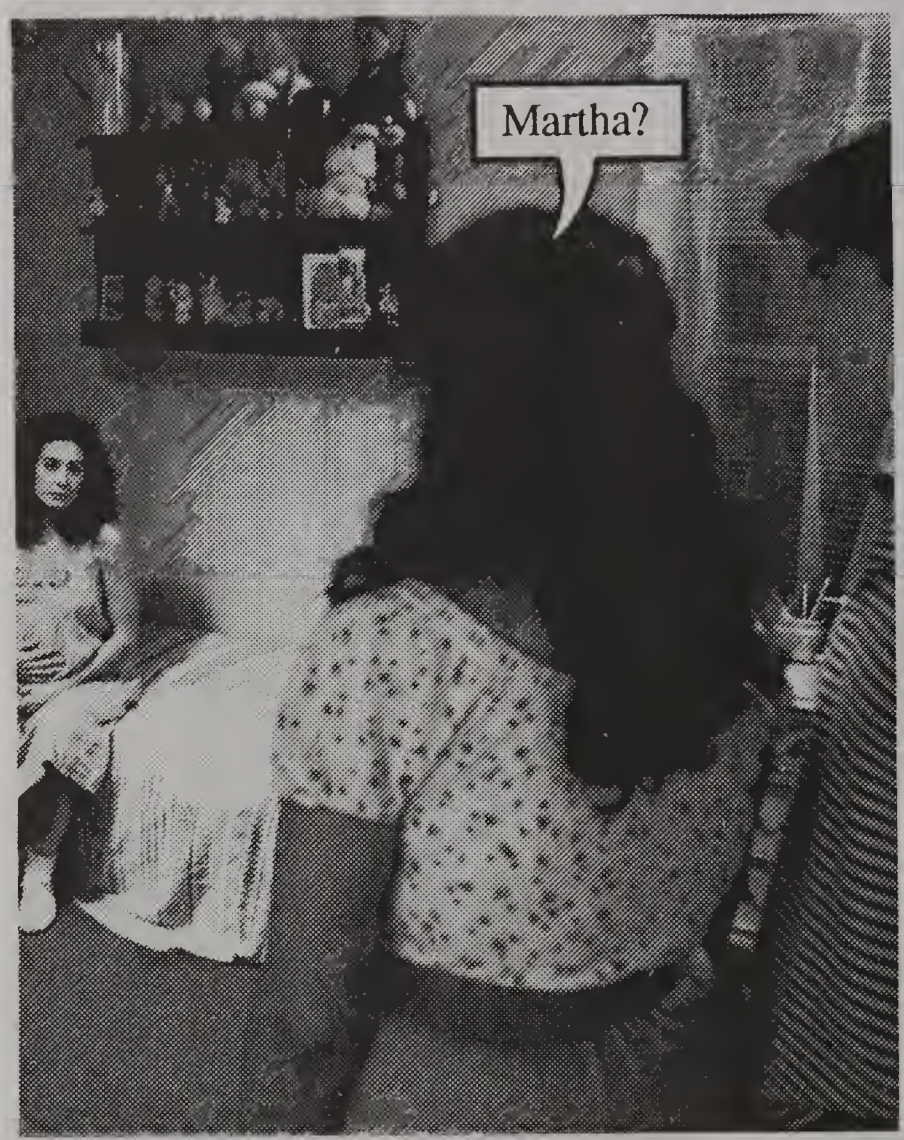
After dinner, José and his sister Marisela talk...



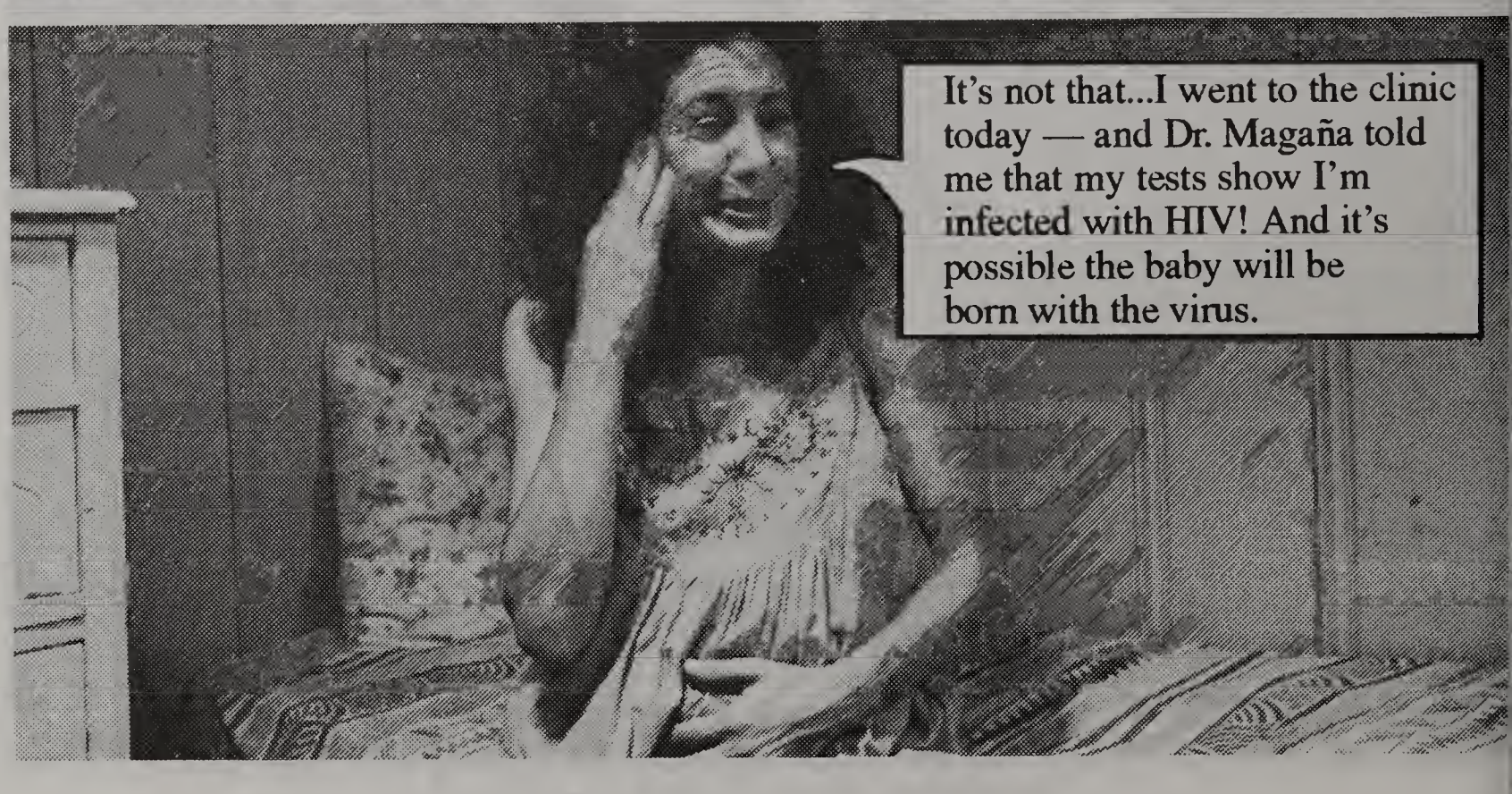




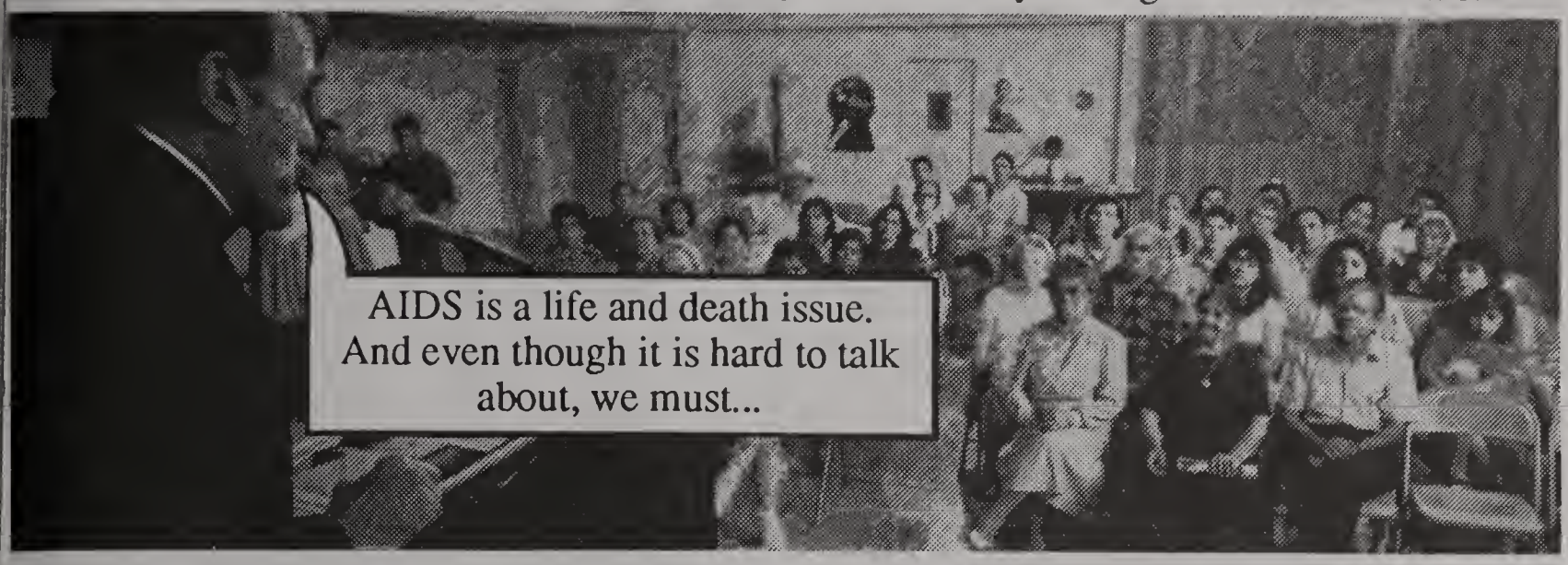

C'mon, let's go find Martha.
I know she's upset.


Martha?

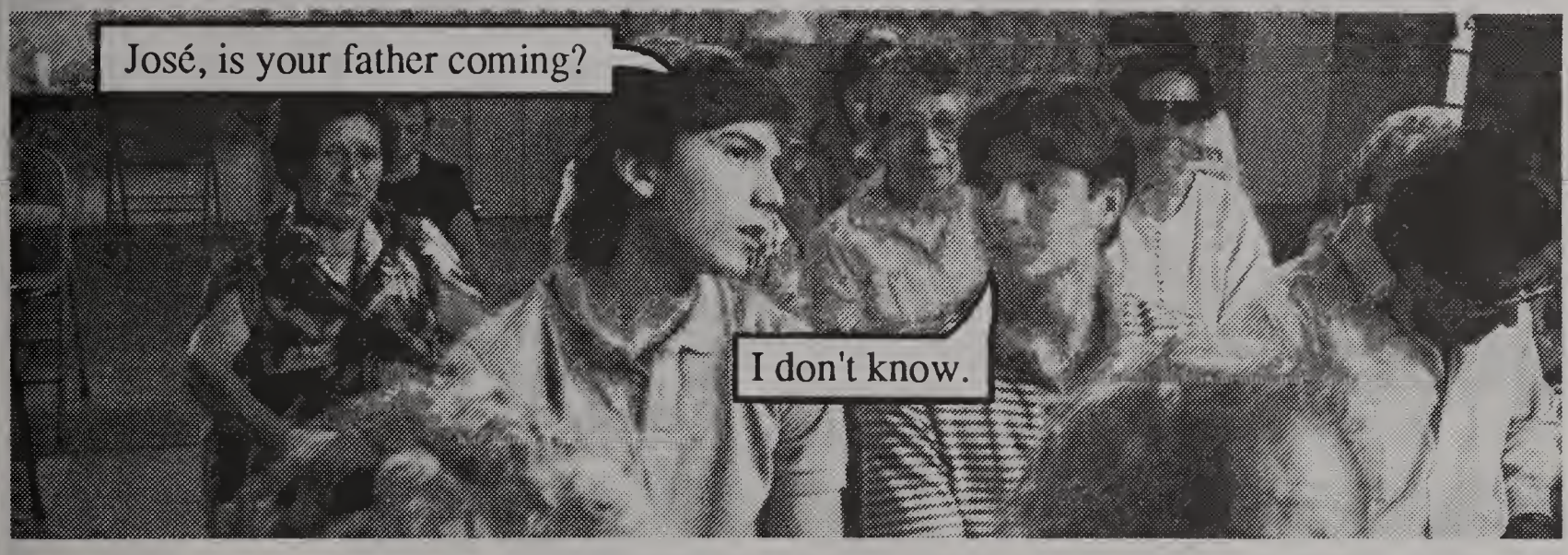
Don't worry about Dad.
Things will get better.

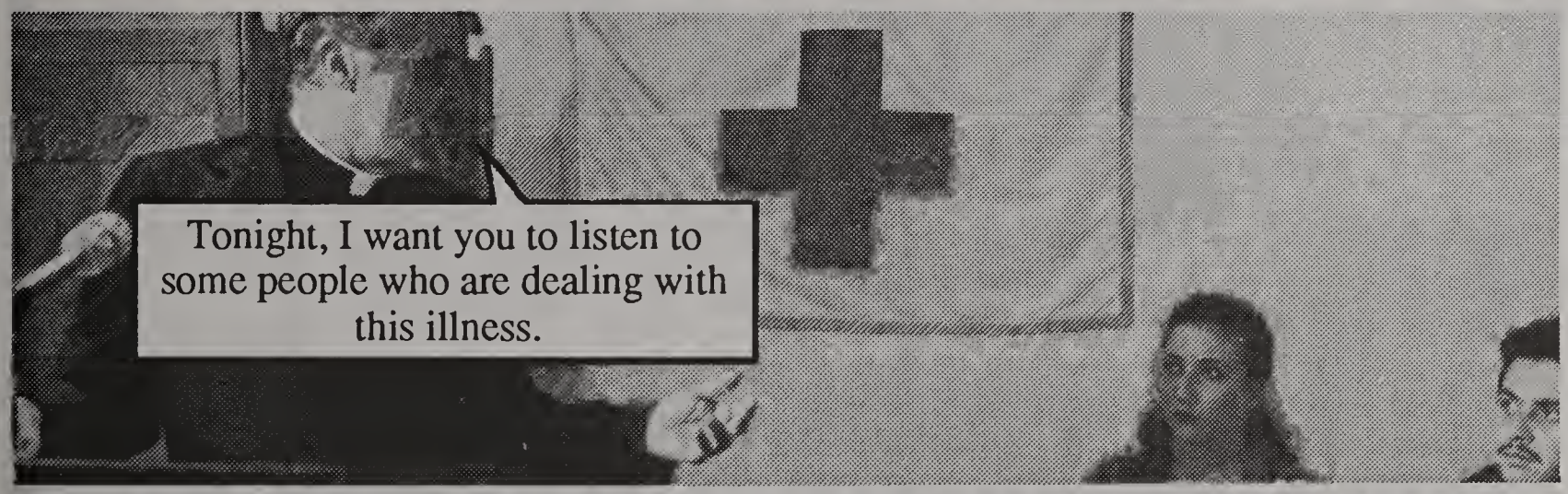

It's not that...I went to the clinic today — and Dr. Magaña told me that my tests show I'm infected with HIV! And it's possible the baby will be born with the virus.

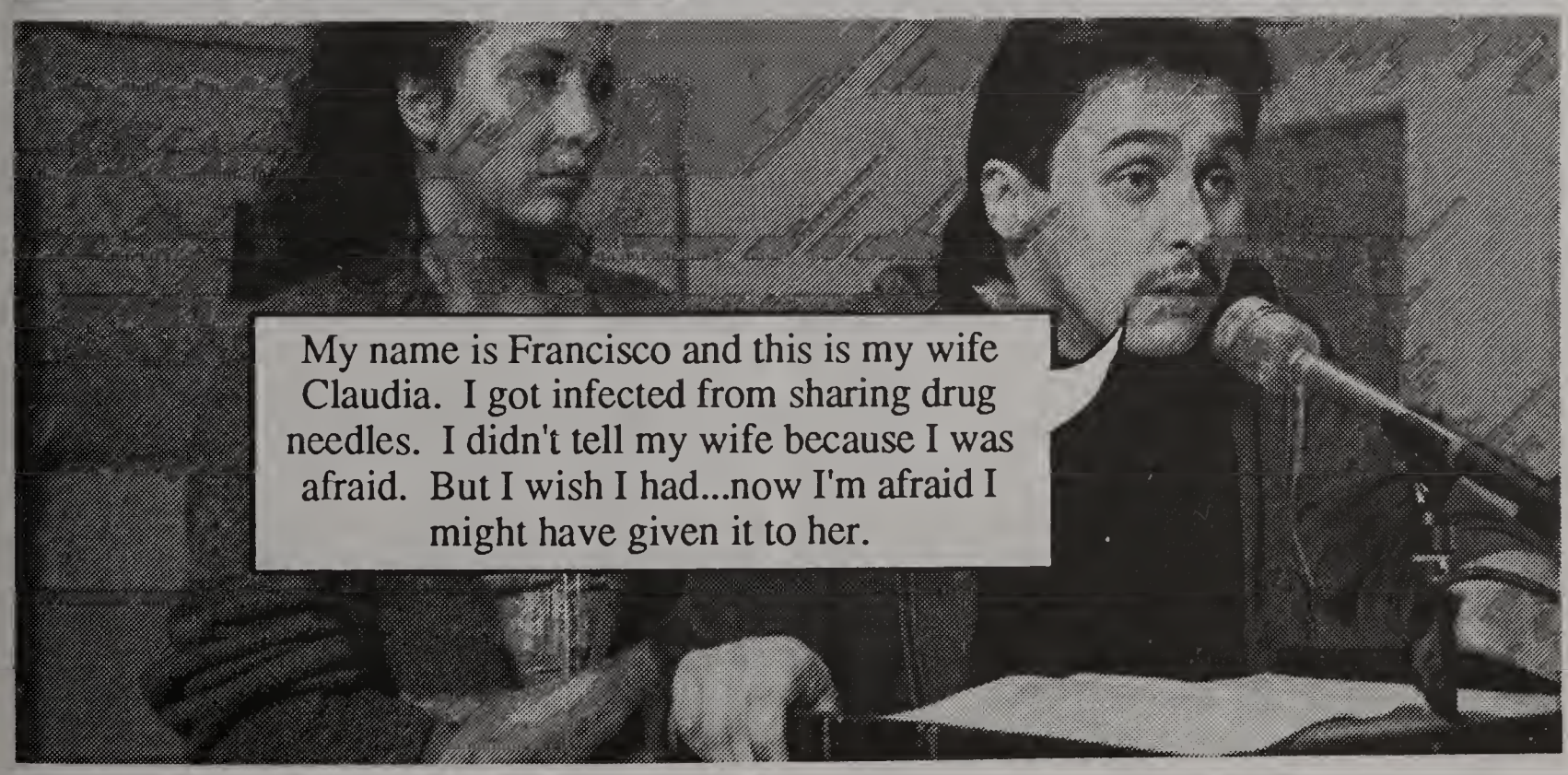
Later on that night, Dr. Magaña has invited the family to a community meeting about HIV and AIDS.

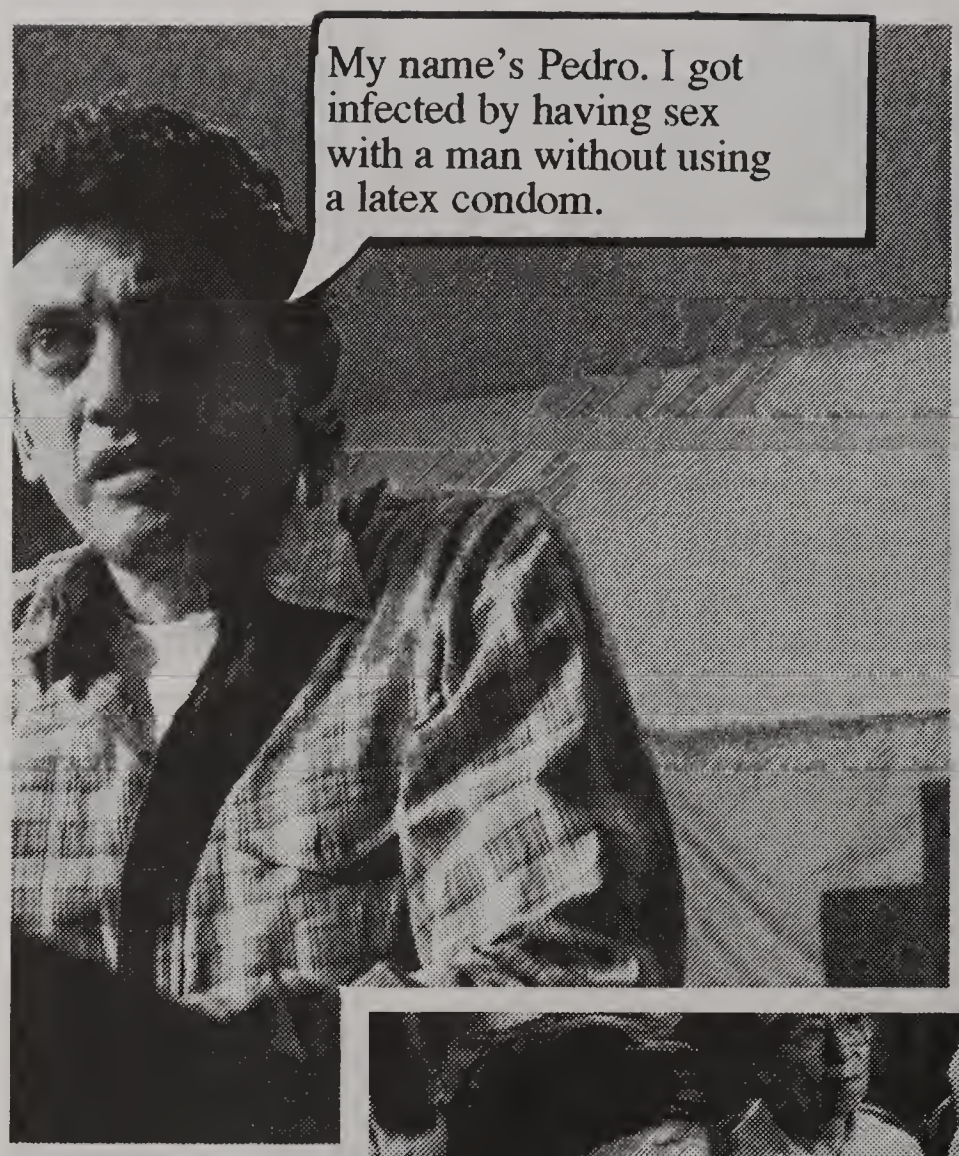


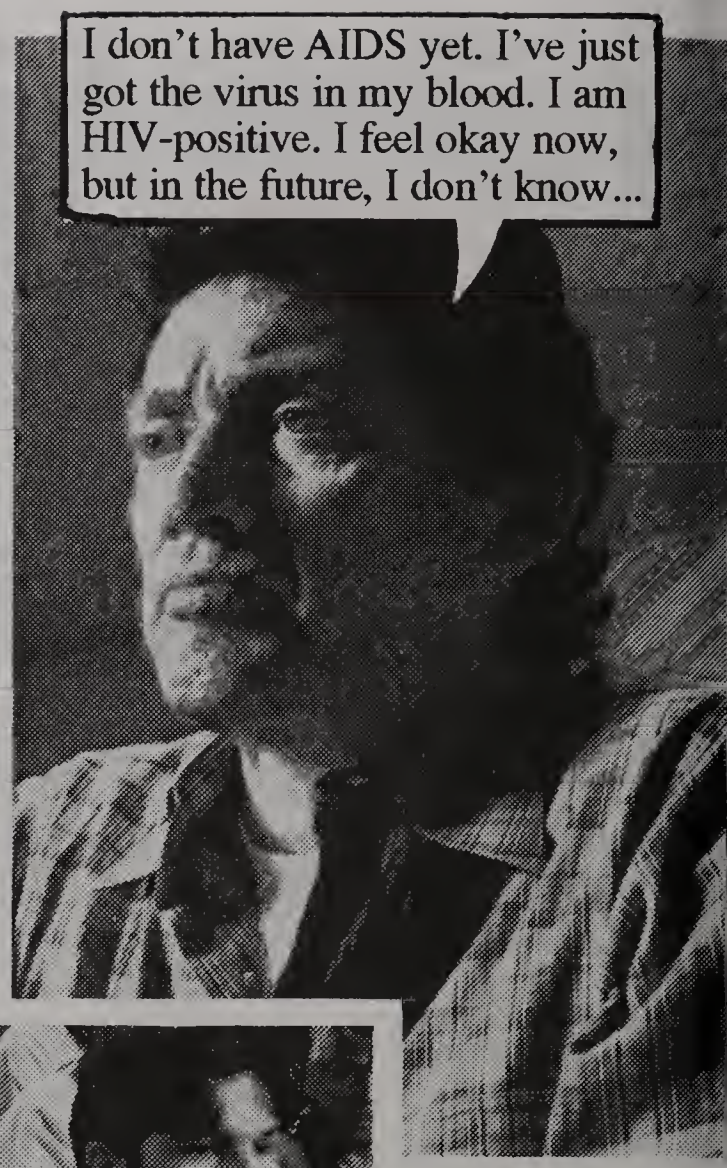
The whole family has come, except one...



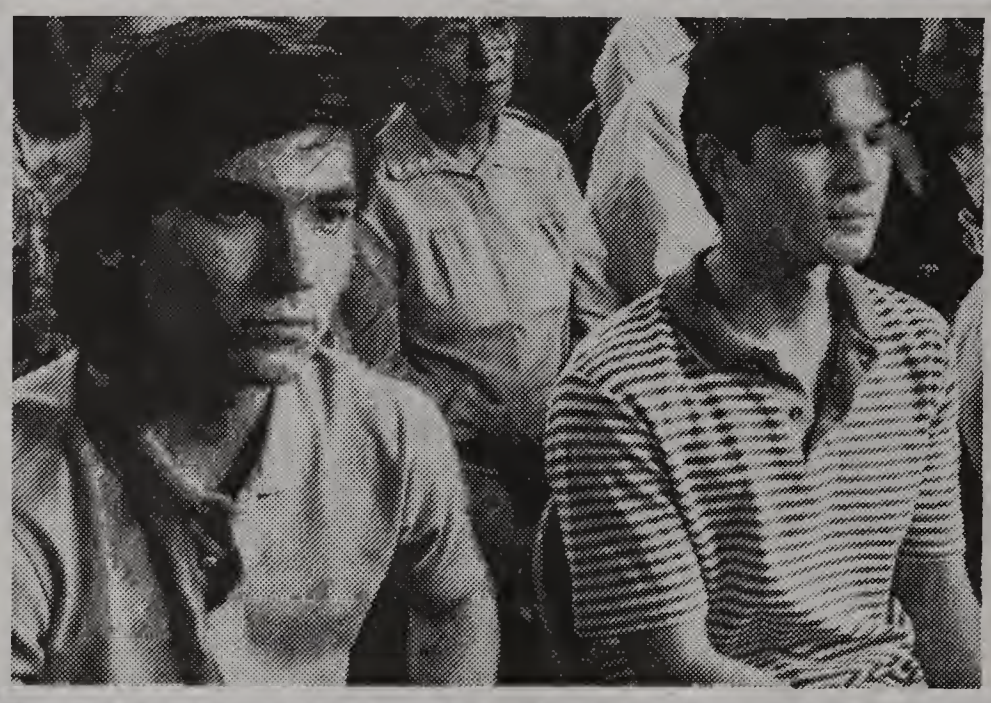



My name is Francisco and this is my wife Claudia. I got infected from sharing drug needles. I didn't tell my wife because I was afraid. But I wish I had...now I'm afraid I might have given it to her.

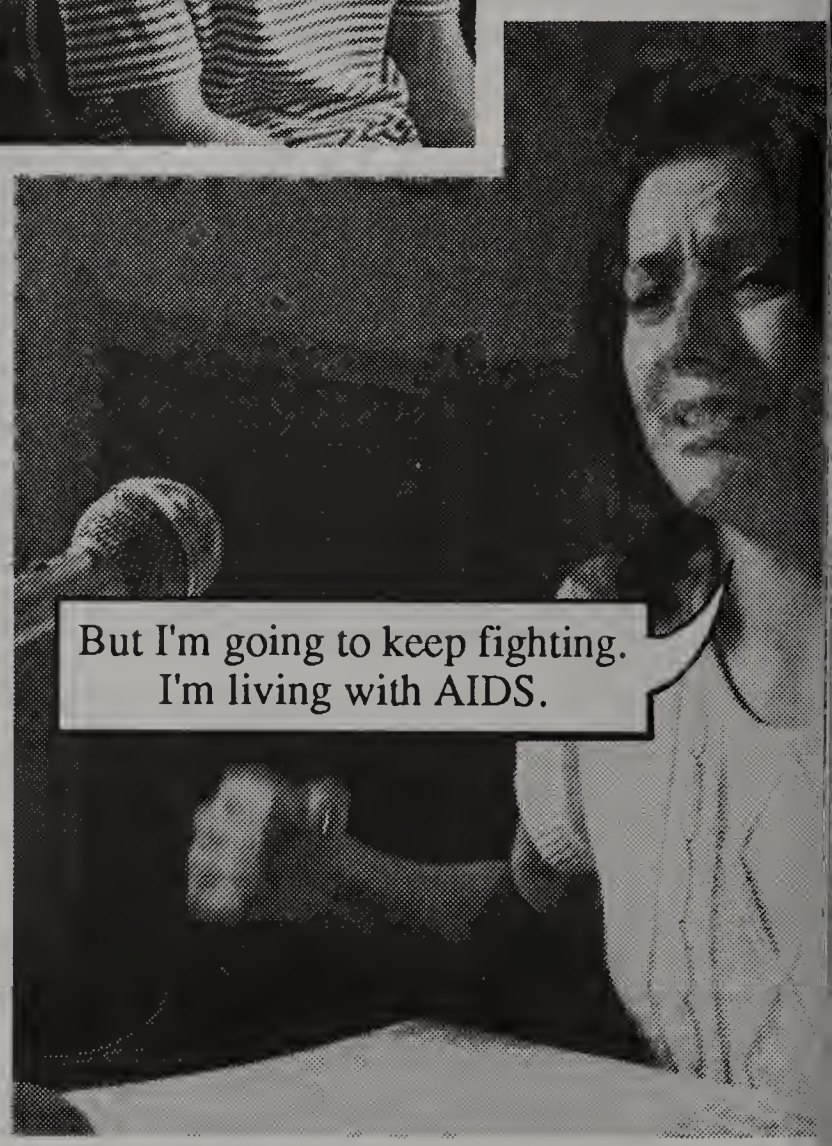




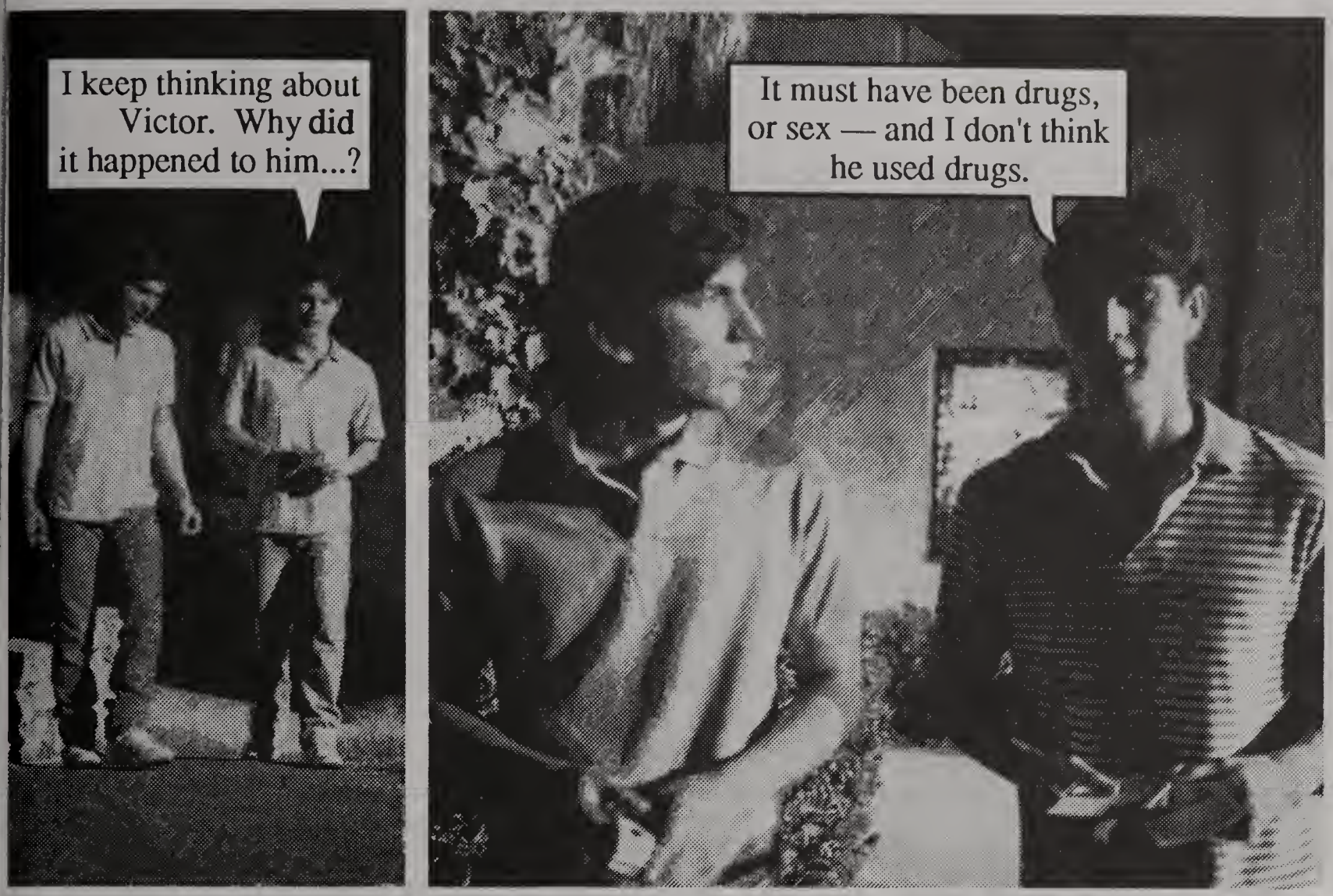
Antonio and José listen attentively...



I got infected with the AIDS virus when I had sex with a man who is infected. I'm glad you're here to learn about HIV infection and AIDS.



After the meeting...


I keep thinking about Victor. Why did it happened to him...?
It must have been drugs, or sex — and I don't think he used drugs.
Do you think he had sex with an infected person?
I know he didn't get it from sex with Martha — maybe there were other women.
What about sex with men?
With a man?

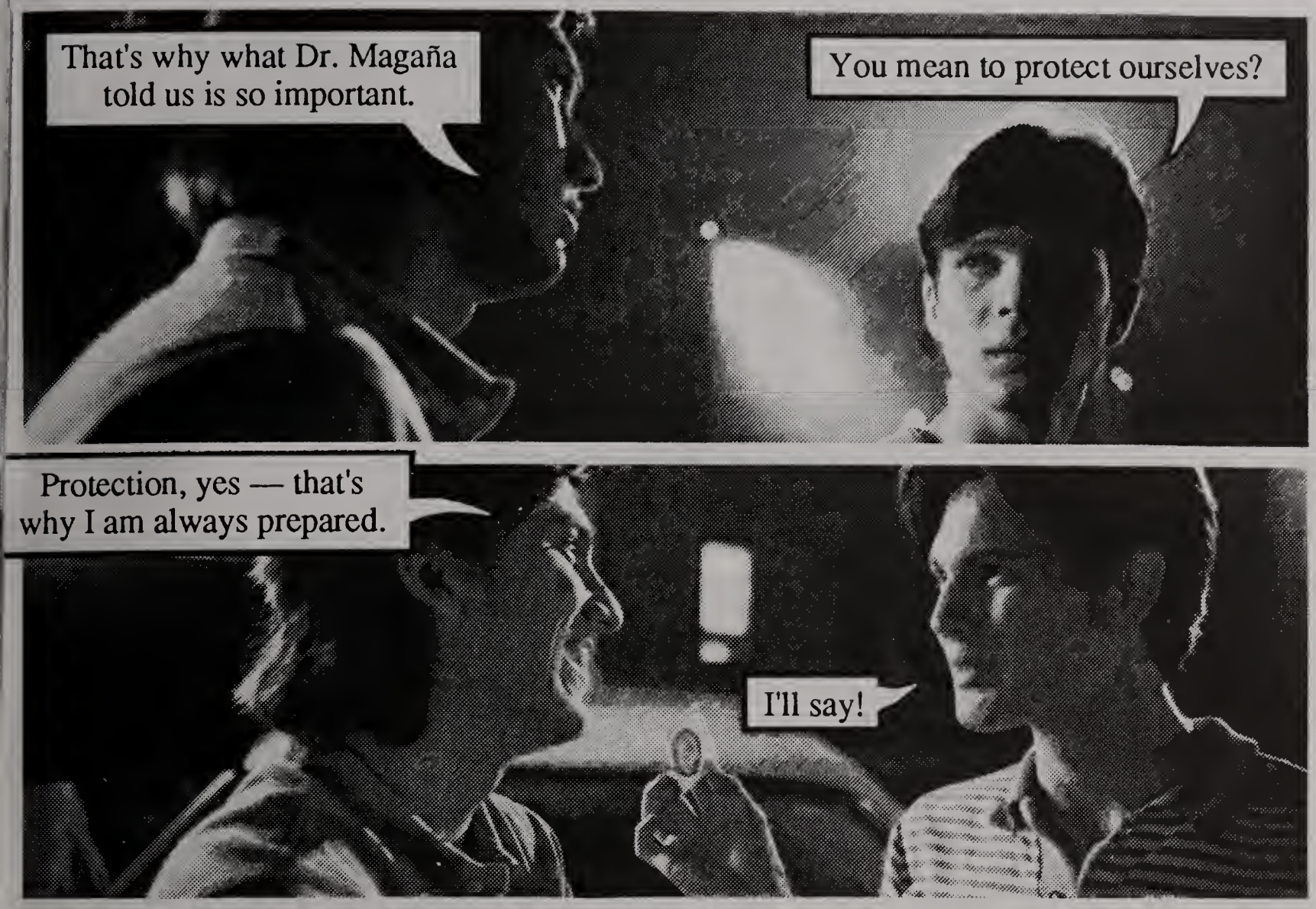
José remembers a party when Victor was drunk.

A lot of men may have sex with other men — like that Pedro. It doesn't mean they consider themselves homosexuals.

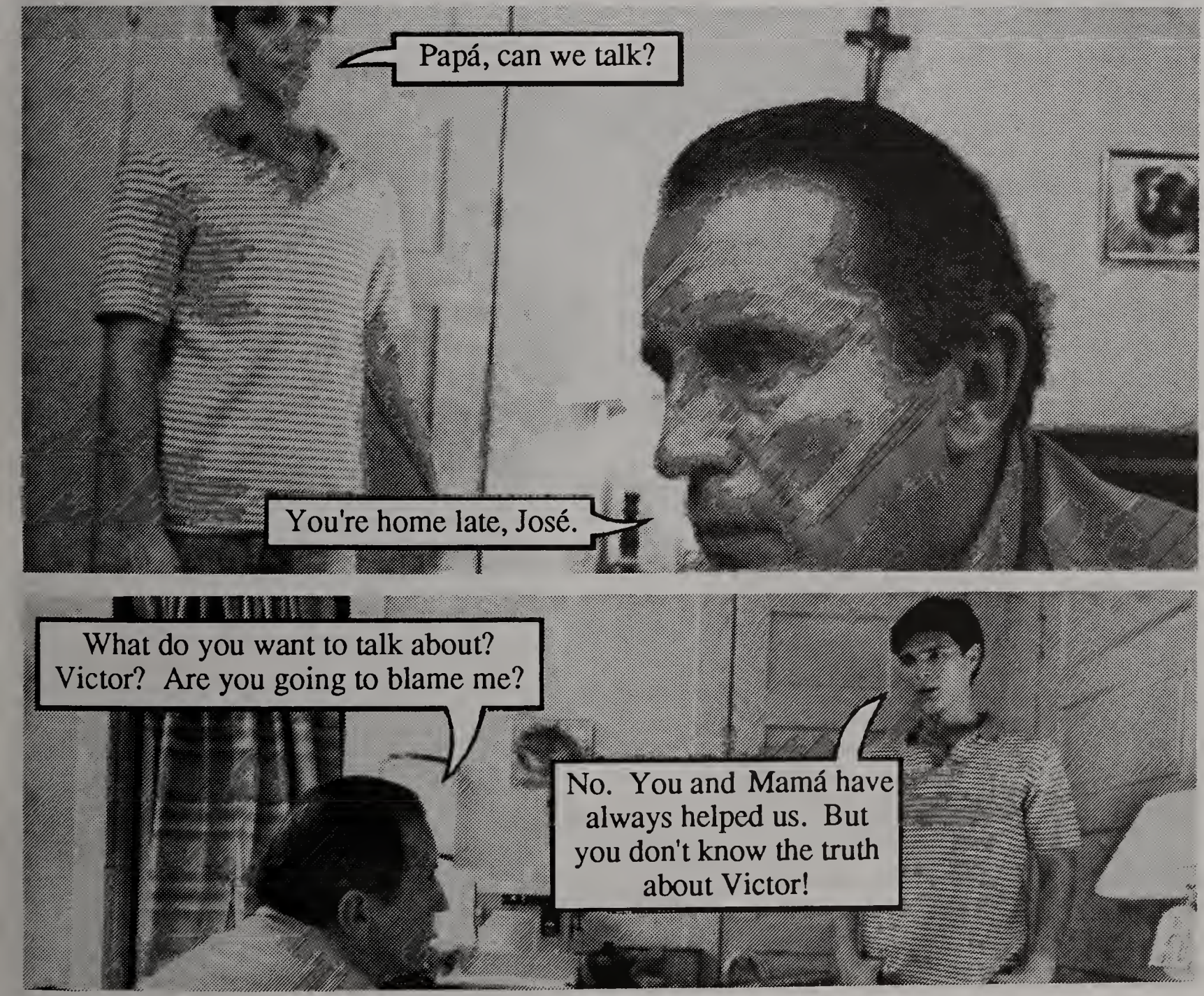
I don't know...

If your brother had had sex with another man, would you have treated him differently?

No, he was my brother. His lifestyle was his business. Whatever he did, I just wish he'd protected himself.


That's why what Dr. Magaña told us is so important.
You mean to protect ourselves?
Protection, yes — that's why I am always prepared.
I'll say!

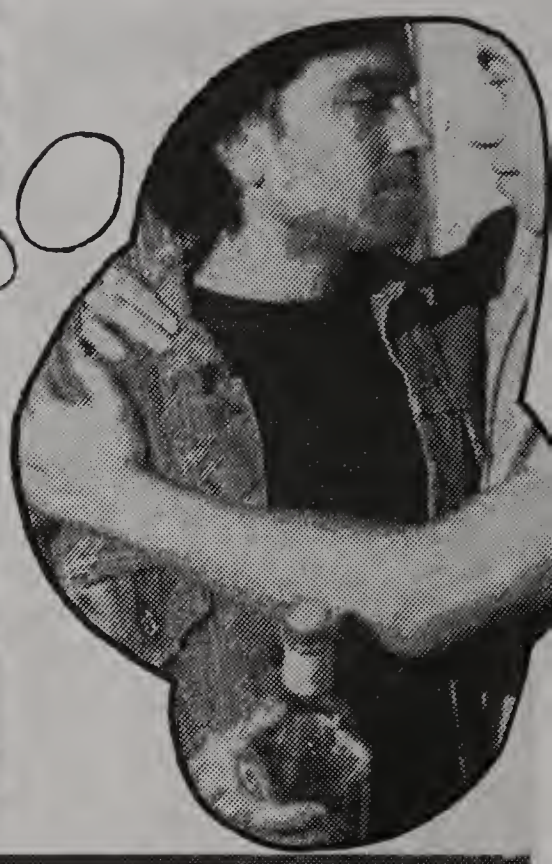
When José arrives home, his father is still awake.


Papá, can we talk?
You're home late, José.
What do you want to talk about? Victor? Are you going to blame me?
No. You and Mamá have always helped us. But you don't know the truth about Victor!

A lot of men may have sex with other men — like that Pedro. It doesn't mean they consider themselves homosexuals.

I don't know...

José remembers a party when Victor was drunk.



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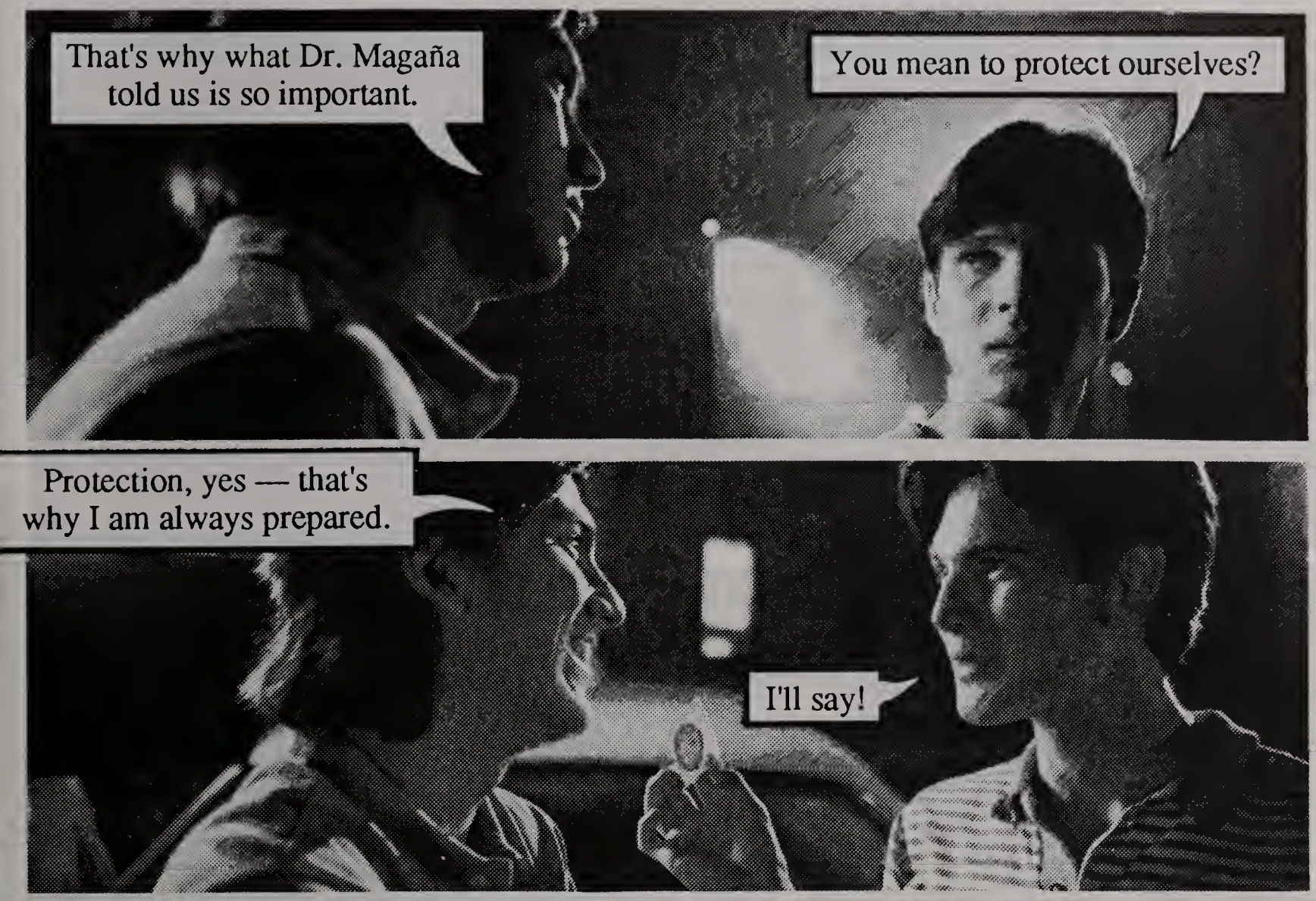
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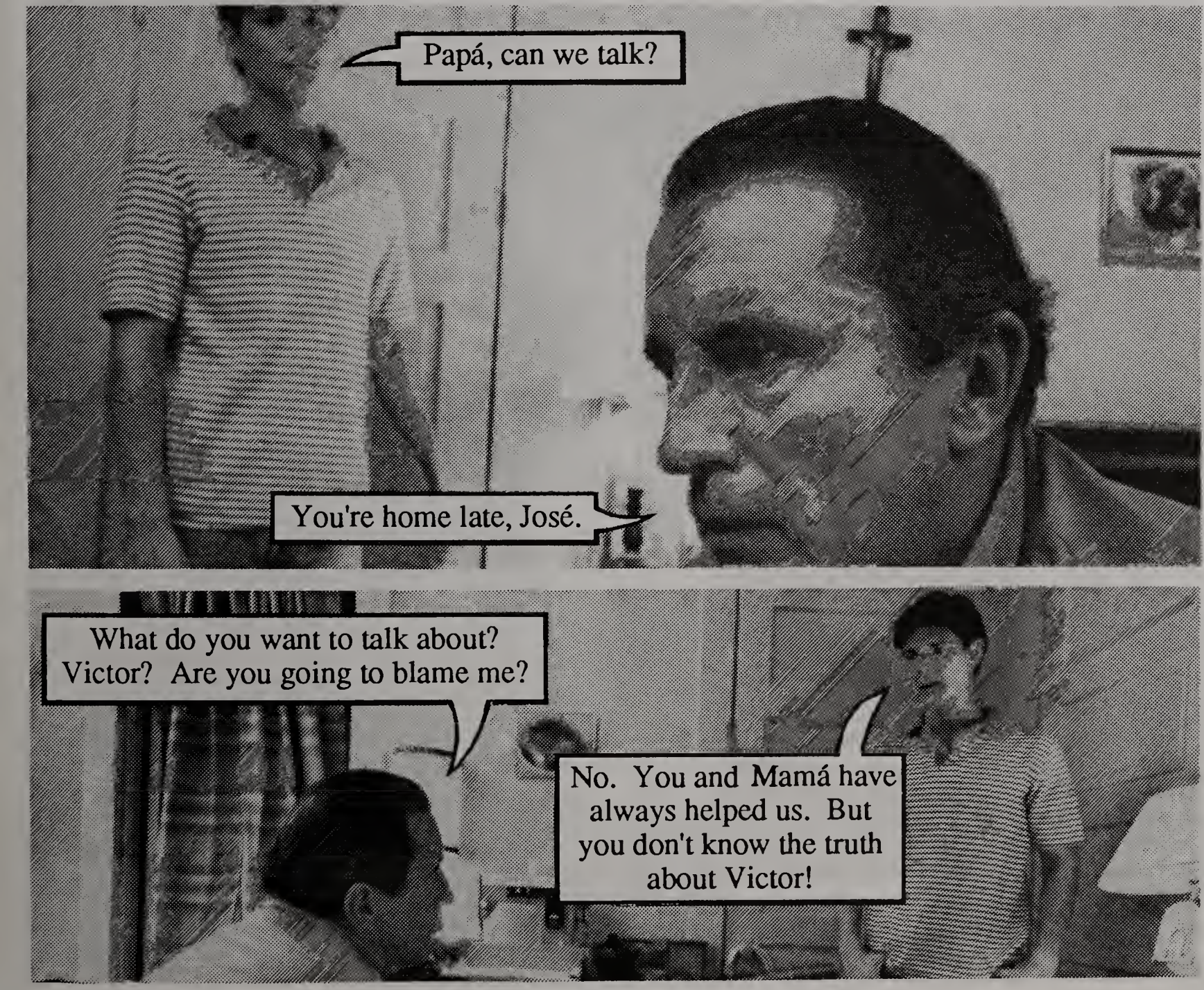

Papá, can we talk?
You're home late, José.
What do you want to talk about? Victor? Are you going to blame me?
No. You and Mamá have always helped us. But you don't know the truth about Victor!

Victor died of pneumonia.

Yes, but it was because his body couldn't fight it — since he had AIDS!

I don't want you talking that way about your brother!

Victor made a mistake, Papá.

The mistake of not being informed about AIDS. And I don't want to make the same mistake.

I forbid you to talk any more about it. Do you understand? Now go to bed!

Carlos! For the love of God! Stop fighting!

You would let him talk about our son like this?

He's only telling the truth.

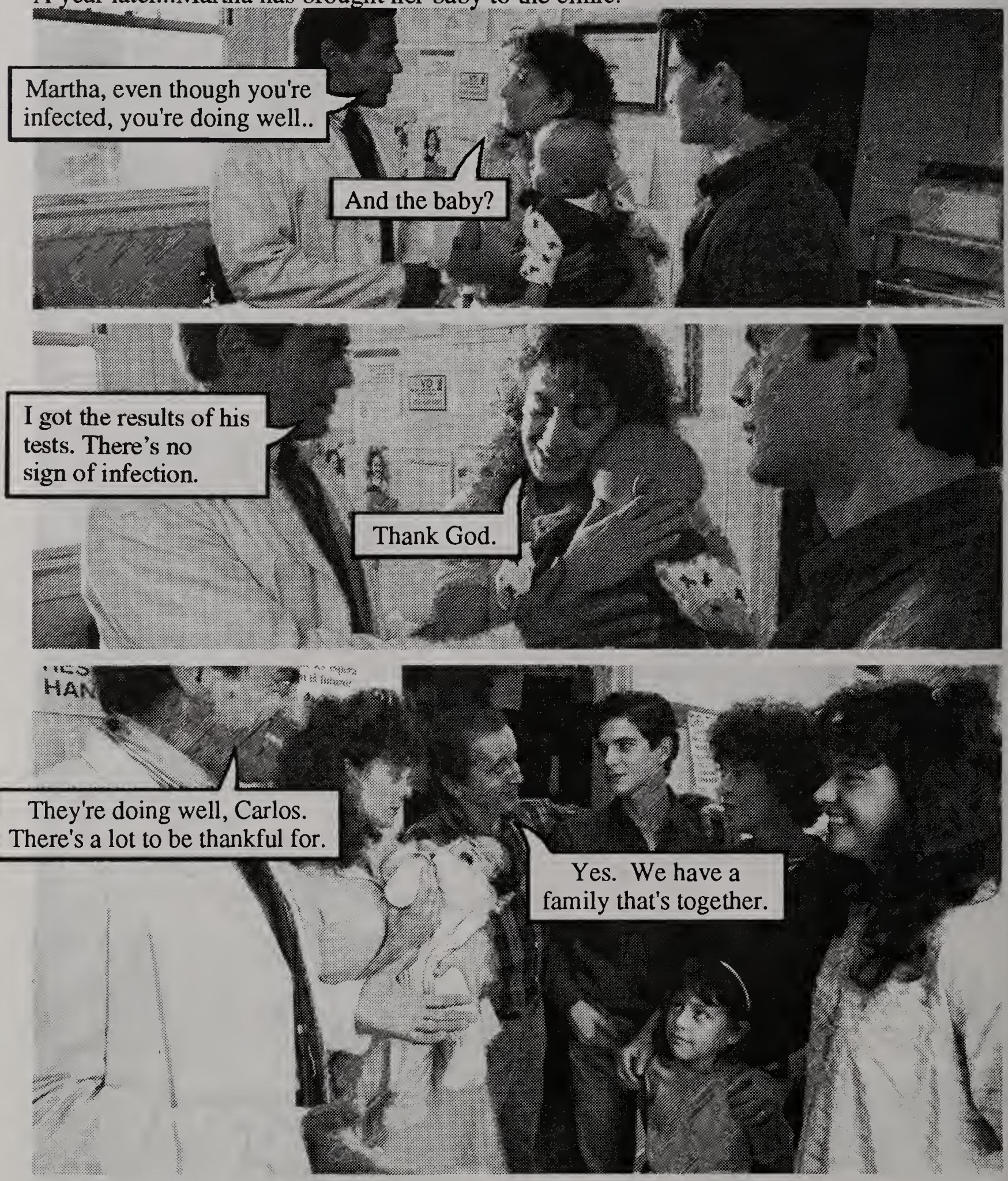
I'm not used to this sort of thing.

I know — but Victor died of AIDS — and we have to face that.

It's hard for me, and I won't promise — but José, I was just trying to protect our family.

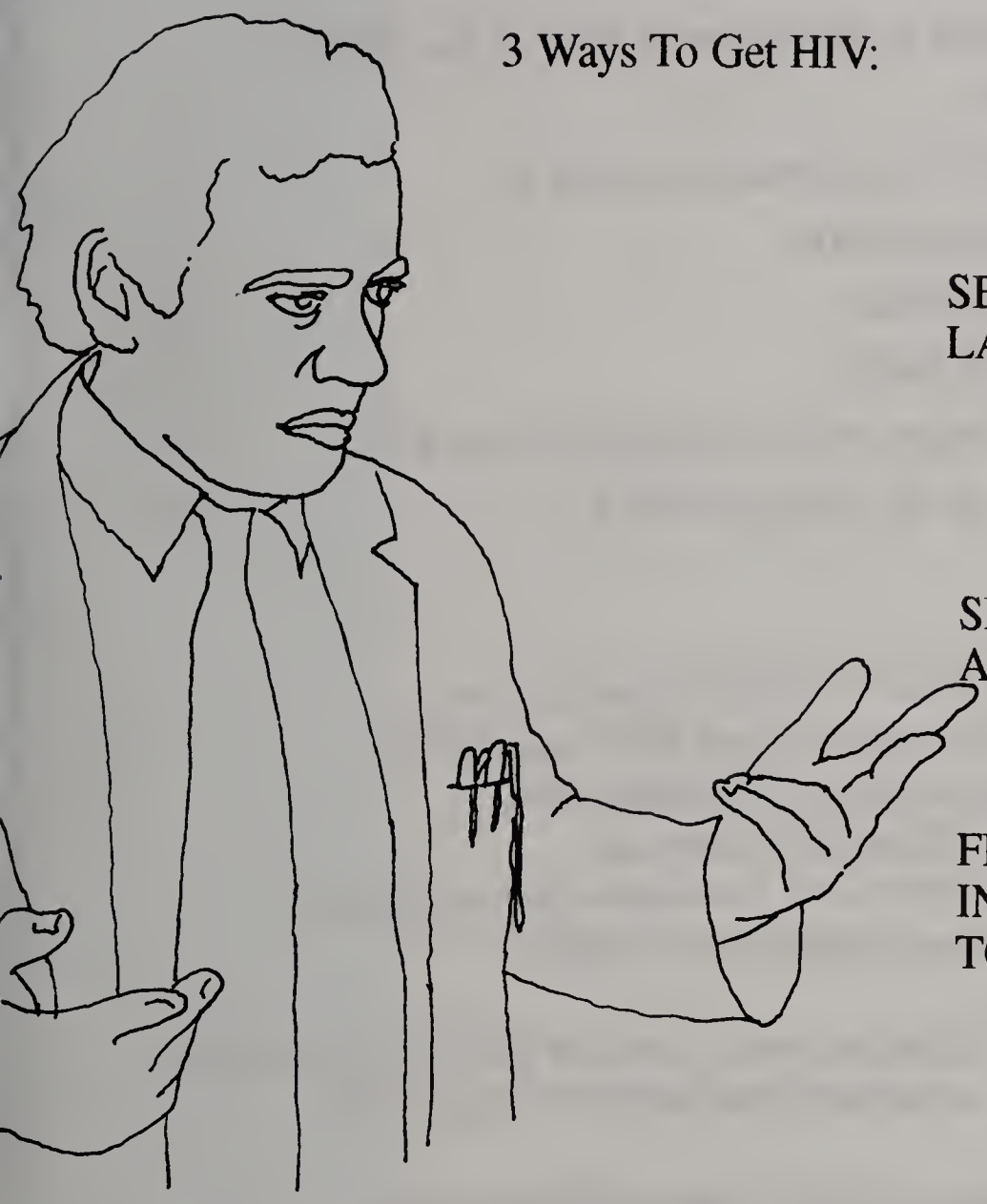
I know, Papá.

A year later...Martha has brought her baby to the clinic.


Martha, even though you're infected, you're doing well..
And the baby?
I got the results of his tests. There's no sign of infection.
Thank God.
They're doing well, Carlos. There's a lot to be thankful for.
Yes. We have a family that's together.

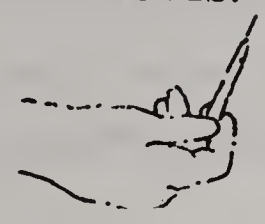
THE END

Here's a recap of the doctor's points about HIV:



3 Ways To Get HIV:

SEX WITHOUT USING
LATEX CONDOMS.



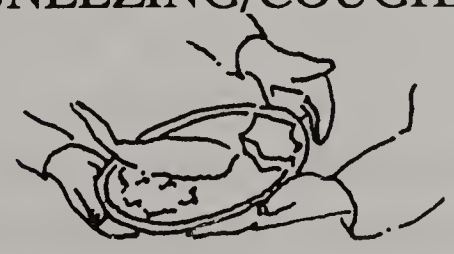
SHARING NEEDLES
AND SYRINGES.

FROM AN
INFECTED MOTHER
TO HER BABY

And the ways you
CANNOT get HIV:

HUGGING/KISSING

SNEEZING/COUGHING



SHARING PLATES

DONATING BLOOD

For more information about HIV and AIDS call:

1-800-342-2437

or your local Red Cross chapter

Test yourself:
How much do you know about HIV and AIDS?
Answer "True" or "False" to the questions below:

1) You can always tell if someone is infected with HIV or has AIDS. T F
2) Only certain people get HIV. T F
3) Families need to talk about HIV and how to prevent it. T F
4) You cannot get HIV by donating blood. T F
5) You can get HIV by sharing needles. T F
6) HIV can be spread by shaking hands. T F
7) It is safe to live in the same house with someone who has AIDS. T F
8) There is no cure for AIDS—so we must prevent it. T F

Contact your local Red Cross chapter
for more information about HIV and AIDS:
Copies of this fotonovela and
• Video: *Mi Hermano*
• Family Guide: *HIV/AIDS Prevention for the Family*
• Comic Book: *Risky Stuff*

Your local chapter can also give you names of local organizations
that can answer other questions about HIV and AIDS

Or call the national AIDS hotline (confidential):

1-800-342-2437: English
1-800-344-7432: Spanish

Answers: 1) False 2) False 3) True 4) True
5) True 6) False 7) True 8) True